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ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

ROBERT CERVANTES and others prepare to march in La Puente on June 15 in support of immigrants.

'You're scared to be brown'

Jackie Ramirez has always been aware of the color of her skin. There was the school crossing guard who nicknamed her *morenita*, little brown girl. The uncle who affectionately called her *paisita*, a country girl.

But never has skin color felt so top of mind than this month, as immigration agents have descended on Southern California, conducting hundreds of arrests. Videos and stories have circulated of people arrested at car washes. Agents picking up street vendors without warrants. A Latino U.S. citizen asked what hospital he was born in.

The heightened fear that kicks in for those "driving while Black" is widely

U.S.-born Latinos fear racial profiling and harassment during ICE raids in the Southland

By Brittney Mejia

known. But the recent immigration sweeps have underscored how much of an issue skin color — and all the circumstances that attach to it — is for Latinos as well.

Ramirez was born and raised in East Los Angeles. Her mother was born in Mexico; her father is of Mexican descent.

"You're scared to be brown," said Ramirez, a Los Angeles radio host for "The Cruz Show" on Real 92.3. "You're scared to look a certain way right now."

The Department of Homeland Security has denied that agents are racially profiling. Agency spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin [See Profiling, A14]

STATE LEADERS REACH BUDGET DEAL

Plan aims to cut healthcare spending for immigrants in face of \$12-billion deficit.

By TARYN LUNA

California leaders reached a tentative agreement Tuesday on the state budget, which hinges on Gov. Gavin Newsom's demand that the Legislature pass a housing reform proposal.

The eleventh-hour negotiations about the spending plan, which takes effect July 1, speak to the political challenge of overhauling long-standing environmental regulations to speed up housing construction in a state controlled by Democrats.

The party has been loath

ANALYSIS

Trump's high-stakes Iran gambit

President's military action garners wide support, along with questions



PRESIDENT Trump with Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday.

By MICHAEL WILNER

THE HAGUE — President Trump's gamble in bombing Iran offers significant rewards if it succeeded in destroying Tehran's nuclear program — and historic risks if it did not. He will get credit for success only if he acknowledges the consequences of failure.

There are critics of Trump's decision to order strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities over the weekend. A segment of the president's base is worried about another military entanglement in the Middle East, and a contingent of Democrats are concerned that he operated outside his constitutional authorities to wage war. But majority support exists on a bipartisan basis across Washington and among U.S. allies in Europe and the Middle East for the president's military actions, which was on display at the NATO summit in The [See Analysis, A4]

FAIR Plan's coverage for smoke damage claims is ruled to be in violation of code.

By LAURENCE DARMIENTO

In a landmark decision, a Los Angeles judge has ruled that California's home insurer of last resort is violating state law by how it treats smoke damage claims — a policy that homeowners have long complained short-changes them, including, most recently, victims of the Jan. 7 firestorms.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Stuart Rice on Tuesday said that the California FAIR Plan Assn.'s policy violates the insurance code because it provides less coverage than what is required by the state's Standard Form Fire Insurance Policy, which provides coverage for all "loss by fire" damage without making any distinction for smoke damage.

Since 2017, the plan has required that fire claims must result in "direct physical loss" as defined by "permanent physical changes" to a property, which owners allege has made it more difficult to be compensated for smoke damage.

The plan issued a notice to its customers that year that said the new definition of direct physical loss "will result in the denial of claims that might have been paid under prior policy wording," Rice noted in his decision in a case brought by a former Mono County property owner.

"This notice seems to ad- [See Smoke, A11]

Will Tehran stick to truce? Questions mount over the impact of the U.S. and Israeli onslaught on Iran's nuclear facilities. PERSPECTIVES, A2

Trump's all in on NATO

Members of the alliance appease the president by agreeing to spend 5% of their GDP on defense. WORLD, A3

Overdose deaths plummet in county

LAUSD budget delays layoffs

'F1' is best when it puts pedal to the metal

[Formula One, from E1] ing its way with a set of lug nuts.

Straightaway, the energy is so macho that it's almost corny. Embrace the tone while allowing the occasional eye roll at Brad Pitt's near-mythic modern-day Steve McQueen. Laconic, cocky, stubborn and unapologetic, he's a loner in a sport that requires teamwork. Drivers can't get anywhere without people eager to change all four of their tires in 2.9 seconds.

Sonny must help APX place in the top 10 before investors like Banning (a disarmingly twinkly Tobias Menzies) fire the entire staff. His much younger teammate, Josh (Idris), is also on the chopping block but scoffs at Sonny as though he's Methuselah pushing the first stone wheel. "He's old — like really old, like 80," Josh grumbles to his mother, a scene-stealing Sarah Niles, who visibly disagrees: She looks at Sonny like a Popsicle on a hot day. Nevertheless, the squad needs to shift strategies and Sonny is here to take them from pathetic to aggressive. He gets a room of technicians to chant, "Combat! Combat!"

But the cars aren't great. When a Ferrari representative is asked what he thinks of APX, he replies, "We don't." In turn, the script barely thinks of Ferrari either, which feels especially brazen as the film was shot on location at nine Formula One Grand Prix events during the 2023 season, from Japan to Mexico to Abu Dhabi. There's priceless production value in watching Pitt do laps on the real tracks surrounded by real chaos, real drivers and real fans doing the wave. Still, it's a bit surreal to hear the announcers obsess over Sonny's high jinks in the back of the pack while ignoring the winners.

The counterargument is that you can't make a villain out of that year's actual champion, Max Verstappen, when Sonny drives a lot like him. Both drivers share a nail-biting approach to safety that can feel dangerously close to a demolition derby. (Last year, F1 tweaked a rule so that one of



BRAD Pitt stars as loner Sonny in director Joseph Kosinski's "F1," which features thrilling race sequences.



JAVIER BARDEM, left, stars as APX team leader Ruben and Tobias Menzies is investor Banning.

his tactics here now results in a disqualification.)

The film itself pulls a couple illegal moves, most gratifyingly when it orders us to care about Sonny's past spinal injury, only to pivot away from that plot point and show him hurtling over sand dunes. His one big monologue about what racing means to him doesn't land with any impact.

But "F1" is on firm ground watching Sonny shake up a sport that's become the world's most expensive game of chase. Technology has taken over with simulators and treadmills and sensors hunting for

spare fractions of a second to eliminate. The film doesn't insult our intelligence by pretending all of these innovations are nonsense — they matter just as much as Sonny's mystical connection to the road. For balance, however, he and his love interest, Kate, bond over their old-school hobbies: He jogs, she bikes.

Idris makes his rookie character bristly yet endearing, with the thin-skinned transparency of a generation raised to measure its worth in likes. Josh's aptly named manager, Cashman (Samson Kayo), pressures him to spend more time on



KERRY CONDON plays Kate, APX's technical director, and Damson Idris is driver Joshua Pearce.

social media, arguing that in today's plugged-in modern circuit, fame is as good of a career path as getting across the finish line first.

I saw "F1" in a screening that was predominantly influencers who didn't seem offended by the movie's disdain for vapid self-promotion. Sonny sneers every time he catches Josh doing a phony smile, even when the kid is simply posing for the advertisements they're both supposedly contracted to do. Instead, we were all swept up by the races themselves, which are honest-to-Goodyear fantastic.

The cinematographer

Claudio Miranda keeps the camera fast and low. Sometimes he fills the screen with road, other times he places the lens between the windshield and the wheel so all we can see is Pitt's gloved fist jerking around turns. The noises are energizing: tire squeals, engine rumbles and a hip soundtrack once it gets past the classic rock standards. To keep pace, Hans Zimmer has concocted a visceral new growl that rattles our seats.

Race cars and blockbuster movies have a core thing in common: They're expensive contraptions made by teams who are painfully

Apologies help 'The Bear' to simmer down the tension

[The Bear, from E1] ed opportunities present themselves, what the series is telling you about itself. This can make a show feel inconsistent across time, but often better in the end, as much as it may irritate viewers who liked how things were back at the beginning.

Early in the fourth season of "The Bear," which premiered Wednesday on FX on Hulu, the staff of the series' eponymous restaurant finally sees the Chicago Tribune review they were anticipating throughout much of Season 3, and when it comes, it contains words like "confusing," "show-offy" and "dissonant." (It's beautiful to see the review represented in a physical newspaper.) The show's third season was accused by some fans and critics of similar things, and whether or not creator and showrunner Christopher Storer is drawing a comparison here, it's true that "The Bear" doesn't behave like most series — the recent shows it most resembles are "Atlanta" and "Reservation Dogs," both from FX, and going back a little, HBO's "Treme," which, like "The Bear," are less invested in plot than in character place and feeling.



SYDNEY (Ayo Edebiri), left, and Tina (Liza Colón-Zayas) in the fourth season of FX comedy "The Bear."

vented place, which is real enough for its purposes, is primarily a stage for human striving, failure and success — and love. Come for the food, stay for the people.

After the first two seasons, which involved trans-

Carmy tells Mikey (Jon Bernthal) of his vision for a restaurant ("We could make it calm, we could make it delicious, we could play good music, people would want to come in there and celebrate ... we could make people

White does this year is listen and react, doing subtle work with his face and fingers, interjecting an occasional "Yeah," while family or colleagues unburden themselves or take him to task. "Is this performative?" Richie

cating or lie about how they're feeling, saying that everything is OK when everything is not OK. But in the long view, the view that extends even beyond the end of the series, whether it comes sooner or later, every

meal, Tina (Liza Colón-Zayas) is working to put pasta on the plate in under three minutes; Ebrahim (Edwin Lee Gibson) is killing it at the sandwich window and looking to "create opportunity" with a new delivery app, a robot called Chuckie and a business mentor (Rob Reiner). Come for the food, stay for the people.

Above all, this is Syd's year, which is, of course, also to say Edebiri's. She's got decisions to make and has been given long, often intense, two-person scenes, not only with Carmy but with Jimmy and Claire and an 11-year-old girl she suddenly finds herself babysitting, and with whom she spends most of an episode; Syd describes her dilemma in terms an 11-year-old might understand and receives the blunt advice an 11-year-old might give.

Carmy, for his part, thinks he knows how to fix things, which he will finally get around to sharing. Is it a good idea? Will it work? Will we ever know, and do we need to know? Is this the final season? (No one has said.) It closes on what is not quite an ending, either

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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NASDAQ 19973.55 ▲ 0.3%

STOXX 600 536.98 ▼ 0.7%

10-YR. TREAS. ▼ 1/32, yield 4.294%

OIL \$64.92 ▲ \$0.55

GOLD \$3,327.10 ▲ \$9.70

EURO \$1.1661

YEN 145.26

What's News

Business & Finance

Shell is in talks to acquire what would be a landmark combination of two super-major oil companies, possibly the largest such deal since the merger that created Exxon Mobil in 1999. **A1**

U.S. took a step toward some financial-crisis-era restrictions, proposing to make largest lenders free up more of the capital they hold in times of market turmoil. **B1**

Major U.S. stock indexes mixed, with the S&P unchanged and the Nasdaq up 0.3%, leaving both near 1% of their records. Dow fell 0.2%. **B10**

Prices of new single-family homes sank in May amid continued concerns over mortgage costs. **A2**

Mediator proposed that Fox and Paramount will settle the president's suit against the media company's CBS News division for \$20 million. **B1**

Investment platform Reckitt Benckiser plans to use blockchain technology to sell investors exposure to SpaceX through tokens that mirror the performance of the company's private shares. **B1**

India's sales in the EU fell only in May, continuing a downward trend even as the electric-vehicle market shows signs of growth. **B4**

Sharing company Bumble said it would lay off about 10% of its workforce, or nearly 240 employees, aiming to become more agile. **B3**

Unilever said it would re-certify food, drug and cosmetic colors from S. frozen products by the end of this year. **B3**

World-Wide

The first NATO summit of Trump's second term indicated that he and his European counterparts understood that if member states care more for their defense, the U.S. will remain a committed leader of the alliance. **A1**

Democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani's stunning win in New York City Democratic primary for mayor left financiers wondering what it might mean for their industry. **A1, A2**

China told its rare-earth industry to identify employees with technical expertise, aiming to ensure they don't pass secrets to foreigners. **A1**

Health Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr.'s new panel of advisers will re-evaluate the recommended schedule for vaccines for children and teens, including for measles and hepatitis B. **A3**

China said it would acquire a major U.S. jets capable of carrying nuclear weapons, as it looks to beef up defense in Europe in light of growing Russian threat. **A6**

Former Trump lawyer Steve defended his actions at the DOJ, parrying accusations that he was unprofessional and ethics qualified him from serving in an appeals court. **A3**

Capitol Hill group launched a sustainability caucus to encourage policies that encourage

Shell in Early Talks to Buy Rival BP

A deal for BP, valued at some \$80 billion, would help Shell to challenge competitors

Shell is holding early-stage talks to acquire rival BP in what would be the largest oil deal in a generation, people

By Ben Dunnett,
Lauren Thomas
and Jenny Strasburg

familiar with the matter said.

Talks between company representatives are active, the people said, and BP is consid-

ering the approach carefully. Acquiring BP would put Shell on firmer footing to challenge larger competitors such as Exxon Mobil and Chevron. It would be a landmark combination of two so-called supermajor oil companies, a group of multinational behemoths that dominate production of the world's most important energy sources.

Potential terms of any deal couldn't be learned, and a tie-up is far from certain, the people familiar with the matter said. Bankers working on behalf of the companies have been engaged in the discussions, which are moving

slowly, the people said.

Shell said after The Wall Street Journal reported the talks that the report "is further market speculation. No talks are taking place." U.S.-listed shares of BP ended the day 1.5% higher, while in London, Shell shares fell 0.8%.

A BP spokesman declined to comment.

BP is currently valued at around \$80 billion. Taking into account a premium, a deal could end up as the largest corporate oil deal since the \$83 billion megamerger that created Exxon Mobil at the turn of the century. It would also easily be the biggest M&A

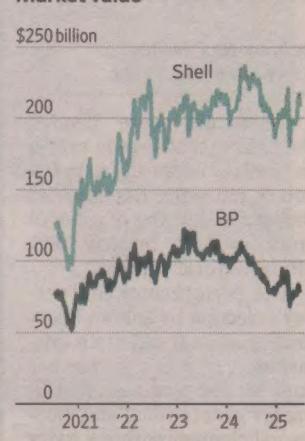
deal of the year, so far, in a market that has been rattled by Trump's trade war and other geopolitical tensions.

Shell comes into the talks operating from a position of strength, with its stock sharply outperforming BP in recent years. Shell, which like BP is based in the U.K. but has operations around the world, has a market value of more than \$200 billion.

BP has been the laggard among major oil companies after an ill-fated push away from fossil fuels into renewable energy. It has also suffered years of management upheaval and

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Market value



Source: FactSet



President Trump basked in praise from European leaders at the summit at The Hague. He is flanked at a meeting by U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, left, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, standing, and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, right.

Trump Warms to NATO, Won Over By More Military Spending, Flattery

THE HAGUE—What a difference one night in a Dutch palace can make.

President Trump departed Washington early Tuesday in a bad mood, swearing at Israel

By Annie Linskey,
Alexander Ward
and Daniel Michaels

and Iran for endangering the cease-fire he had brokered and sweating from a heat wave blanketing the capital.

Once he settled into his royal digs here, where temper-

atures dipped into the 60s, the cease-fire was holding and he basked in praise from European leaders he had clashed with for years.

"I came here because it was something I'm supposed to be doing," said Trump during an hourlong news conference at the end of his brief trip to the Netherlands. "But I left here a little bit different."

The biggest difference was his new verdict on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"It's not a rip-off," Trump said, reversing his past broad-

sides against the alliance.

Trump even got a pass on his profanity from NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, who compared the Iran-Israel situation to disciplining children, explaining, "Daddy has to sometimes use strong language."

The first NATO summit of Trump's second term indicates he and his European counterparts have finally reached an understanding: If allies pay more for their own defense, the U.S. will remain a committed leader of NATO. In a bonus for Europeans, Trump bashed

President Vladimir Putin of Russia as the main reason war still rages in Ukraine.

"Vladimir Putin has been more difficult," Trump said. "Vladimir Putin really has to end that war."

But getting to this point took immense effort, and some European officials privately bristled at how much this year's summit was geared toward personally satisfying Trump.

One day earlier, on Trump's flight to the Netherlands, he had equivocated about his

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China Puts Rare-Earth Experts on Tight Leash

By JON EMONT

China has told companies in its rare-earth industry to give the government lists of employees with technical expertise, aiming to ensure they don't divulge trade secrets to foreigners.

The queries point to the growing geopolitical signifi-

INSIDE



U.S. NEWS

Young Americans, squeezed by a challenging economy, are spending less. **A3**



SPORTS

Can a woman run a four-minute mile? Faith Kipyegon is ready to find out. **A14**

Even Buffett Hasn't Fixed RV Breakdowns

Forest River averages 50 recalls a year, many from manufacturing errors

By RYAN FELTON
AND JOHN KEILMAN

Jay Nelson was driving away from a picturesque Montana state park in

footloose dreams, however, are vehicle-quality problems that have been blamed for injuries and deaths.

Forest River, owned by Warren Buffett's Berkshire

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DJIA 43089.02 ▲ 507.24 1.19%

NASDAQ 19912.53 ▲ 1.4%

STOXX 600 540.98 ▲ 1.1%

10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 7/32, yield 4.291%

OIL \$64.37 ▼ \$4.14

GOLD \$3,317.40 ▼ \$60.30

EURO \$1.1611

YEN 144.93

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What's News

Business & Finance

◆ Big banks are trying to avoid scrutiny by Republican states that are putting pressure on companies for "woke" policies that conservative policymakers say are illegal and discriminatory. **A1**

◆ Powell told lawmakers that recent economic data would have likely justified continuing to cut interest rates if not for concerns that higher tariffs might derail the Fed's fight against inflation. **A2**

◆ Benchmark U.S. oil futures fell further to settle at \$64.37 a barrel and stock indexes rose, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow gaining 1.1%, 1.4% and 1.2%, respectively. **B1**

◆ U.S. consumer confidence slipped in June, reversing an improvement in May, the Conference Board said. **A2**

◆ The U.K.'s antitrust authority proposed to designate Google as having strategic market status in general search and search advertising, paving the way for measures that could change how the company operates. **B1**

◆ Federal investigators said Boeing's flawed manufacturing processes and inadequate regulatory oversight were among factors leading to a door-plug blowout on a 737 MAX aircraft last year. **B1**

◆ Carnival raised its outlook for the year as the cruise line logged higher-than-expected quarterly profit and revenue, boosted by strong demand and consumer spending. **B1**

◆ Amazon.com plans to invest about \$54 billion in the U.K. over the next three years, expanding its warehouse network and artificial-intelligence infrastructure. **B6**

World-Wide

◆ A cease-fire between Israel and Iran appeared to be holding on Tuesday after Trump unleashed an expletive-laced tirade aimed at the leaders of both countries in hopes of keeping the fragile peace. **A1, A6**

◆ The U.S. bombing of Iran and direct involvement in Israel's conflict added a fresh dose of uncertainty to an already muddled U.S. economic picture. **A7**

◆ A formal announcement of a pledge by NATO members to more than double their defense spending was expected at a meeting of the alliance in The Hague on Wednesday. **A16**

◆ Attorneys general from 21 states sued the Trump administration for slashing billions of dollars in federal funding and justifying the cuts by citing shifting agency priorities. **A3**

◆ Homeowners who bought around the peak of the market are increasingly finding they owe more on their mortgages than their properties are worth. **A3**

◆ Roughly six million federal student-loan borrowers are 90 days or more past due, TransUnion said, and about a third of them could move into default in July. **A3**

◆ Trump dared political foes to try again to remove him from office, responding to comments by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez that

Iran-Israel Cease-Fire Appears to Hold



Israeli rescue teams descended on the scene of a missile strike in a residential area of Beer Sheba. Four people were killed in southern Israel after Iran launched missile barrages toward the country early Tuesday, shortly before a truce took effect.

Moscow Fails to Deliver Promised Military Support for Tehran in Crisis

Iran got little more than rhetoric from Russia as it faced U.S. Israeli attacks

BY THOMAS GROVE
AND BOJAN PANCEVSKI

President Vladimir Putin of Russia met his Iranian counterpart at the Kremlin at the start of the year to sign a new strategic partnership to seal the budding alliance between the two countries that had spent the last decade trying to undermine the U.S.-led

world order.

Now, after a tenuous ceasefire ended more than a week of punishing Israeli and U.S. airstrikes, that partnership is doing Tehran little good.

When Putin met with Iran's top diplomat, Abbas Araghchi, on Monday, the Kremlin leader gave a stony-faced assessment of the U.S. strikes. He called the attacks unjustified and unprovoked, and said Russia wanted to help the Iranian people. But the Kremlin leader made no mention of military support in his public remarks ahead of the talks. Instead, he suggested they discuss an exit

ramp out of the conflict. "This gives us a chance to...think together about how it would be possible to get out of this situation," Putin said.

Israeli strikes targeted Iran's nuclear program, missiles and top military figures, with the U.S. joining over the weekend by using its most powerful bunker busters. Iran, meanwhile, has gotten little more than rhetorical support from its most powerful backers, including Russia and China.

The partnership between Moscow and Tehran has been a thorn in the side of Western interests in Europe and the Mid-

dle East. The two cooperated for nearly a decade in Syria to keep President Bashar al-Assad in power. And after Moscow fumbled the initial stages of its invasion of Ukraine, Iran boosted Russia's war effort with ammunition, artillery shells and thousands of drones.

But Moscow is unlikely to return the favor. With Iran facing its most existential challenge in decades and even signals from President Trump about regime change, Russian military aid is unlikely to come through, analysts said. While the strategic partner-

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Both sides relent following Trump tirade fueled by alleged violations

A cease-fire between Israel and Iran appeared to be holding on Tuesday after President Trump unleashed an expletive-laced tirade aimed at the leaders of both countries in hopes of keeping the fragile peace.

By Yaroslav Trofimov,
Alexander Ward,
Jared Malsin
and Summer Said

"We basically have two countries that have been fighting so long and so hard that they don't know what the f— they're doing," Trump said at the White House Tuesday morning when the truce looked in danger of breaking.

Trump was surprised to learn Tuesday morning that the war hadn't ended following his announcement of a truce on Monday. After Trump expressed deep frustration, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would refrain from further strikes on Iran following a call with the president.

It remains to be seen how long the truce will hold, and whether the U.S. and its allies will be able to use the leverage gained by the U.S. and Israeli strikes to reach a diplomatic deal that prevents Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon in coming years.

Yet, the rapid move from a surprise airstrike to a cease-fire, with major policy pivots announced via social-media posts that gave whiplash to friends and foes alike, has showcased Trump's unorthodox approach to wielding power.

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◆ A weakened Iran remains lethal..... A6
◆ Strike on Iran sparks retaliation concerns..... A7
◆ Bombing adds to U.S. economic uncertainty.... A7
◆ Trump set for a win on NATO spending..... A16

INSIDE



SPORTS

The rookie sensation who throws 103 mph—and who's almost unhittable. **A12**



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Probe of door blowout faults both Boeing and air-safety regulators. **B1**

Lawyers Tout Big Verdicts, But Clients Struggle to Collect

Gloria Allred, Lisa Bloom and others market victories against Alki David, but getting him to pay has been an ordeal

BY KHADEEJA SAFDAR

Elizabeth Taylor spent nearly a decade pursuing a sexual-harassment claim against her former boss at an online streaming company in Los Angeles. The long, grinding legal fight seemed worth it when a jury awarded her \$8.4 million in late 2023.

Her lawyer, Lisa Bloom, was ebullient, splashing news of the verdict across her website, Instagram page and YouTube channel. She billed it as "one of the biggest sexual harassment verdicts of the year."

Some 18 months later, though, the 38-year-

old hasn't received a cent. "I think I look stupid on her website," she said, referring to Bloom's marketing. "No one knows that I'm not a multimillionaire and that I don't have a dollar to my name." She said she sleeps in her mother's guest room in Jacksonville, Fla.

Taylor is one of several employees who have collected only small portions or none at all of the enormous civil judgments they won—more than \$150 million in total—against their former boss Alkiviades "Alki" David, an heir to a Coca-Cola bottling fortune who was widely reported to be a billionaire.

Please turn to page A8

The Island Where Horses Rule

* * *

On Vieques, they run through surf

Big Banks Try to Avoid Running Afoul of GOP

Big banks are trying to get out of the crosshairs of Republican states that are cracking down on companies for "woke" policies that conservative lawmakers

law firms.

The Trump administration is considering an executive order on "debanking," according to people familiar with the

salesforce

Agentforce
can help
thousands of

HEARD ON THE STREET

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS & COMMENTARY

Visa and Mastercard Can Survive Stablecoins

The cryptocurrencies' quickest path to consumer wallets may be working with today's players

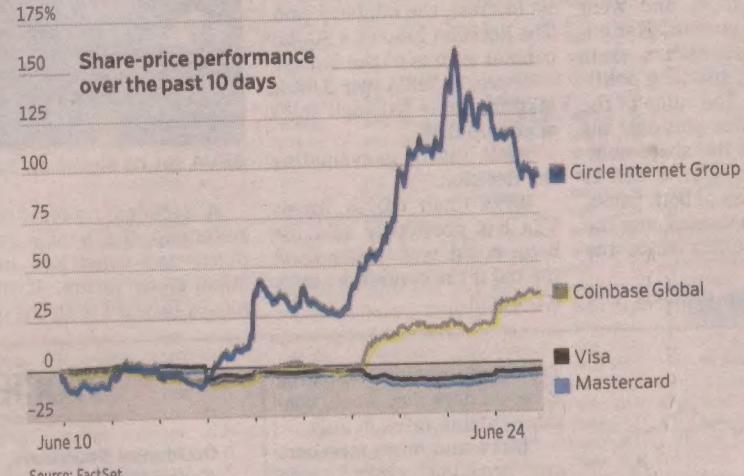
Stablecoins have a shot at being used in a lot of consumer payments. If they play their cards right.

Investors seem to be betting that stablecoins—digital tokens meant to represent a fixed amount of a fiat currency such as the U.S. dollar—could rapidly disrupt how we pay for things.

Following the Senate's passage of a stablecoin-regulation bill last week, shares of crypto companies such as **Circle Internet Group** and **Coinbase Global** surged 49% and 36% respectively. Shares of **Visa** and **Mastercard**, by contrast, are both down around 2%.

But before the market runs away with this trade, it is important to understand what drives the consumer-payments business—and just how hard it is to dislodge cards.

The key thing about consumer payments is that it isn't just about technology. There are already many so-called rails, both public and private, on which money can move. Instead, what keeps cards at the center of payments are their unique economics, and their universality. In places such as the U.S., credit or debit cards are held by virtually every consumer and accepted by almost every mer-



chant. They provide banks and consumers with financial incentives to keep using them. And they have mechanisms to handle security, as well as disputes between buyers and sellers.

Of course, merchants are the ones who in a sense pay for all that, by paying fees to accept card payments. So merchants are usually among the first to rush to embrace other ways to pay. The Wall Street Journal reported that some giant merchants are exploring issuing stablecoins.

Many payment forms have found specific lanes, or operate in the background. But especially in the U.S., cards have remained central to consumer commerce, whether in physical or digital form.

Could this time be different for stablecoins? Stablecoins can use public blockchains to move over the internet, making them widely accessible to adopt in payments. They are especially appealing in countries where people want to operate in U.S. dollars, but can't

get U.S. dollar bank accounts.

However, card networks are adapting. Both Visa and Mastercard enable partners to offer cards whose payments can be funded by cryptocurrencies, including stablecoins.

Merchants can then collect the payments the way they would with any card transaction. No new setup is required. These network operators are also offering ways for merchants and others to themselves be paid in stablecoins. That includes USDC, which is issued by Circle.

Then there is the incentive question of why a consumer would want to transact directly in stablecoins over cards. The latter often pay out generous rewards to holders.

Stablecoins have a potential mechanism to do something similar. Each coin has a reserve fund that aims to ensure it can be redeemed for its fixed fiat currency value.

Those funds generate interest revenue. That creates a kitty that can fund rewards to people who pay with those tokens, as with discounts or points.

But that reserve income goes to the coin issuers, not merchants who accept the payments. Mer-

chants would need to negotiate with those players, whether are banks or others, to get a of the economics.

If merchants pursue their coins, then they could in the fully fund their own reward programs. It would be similar to some retailers today, such as **bucks**, hold customers' pre-dollars in accounts. They can earn interest on that cash.

But this pathway might not be available to the biggest merchants. And, to make customers more willing to hold money in their accounts, merchants might want to issue cards linked to their accounts. Then customers can use those cards to pay at other sellers.

All this only applies to paying with existing funds about credit? That requires a lender, and typically a card issuer to facilitate the transaction. Coinbase, for example, has announced it is launching a credit card via the **American Express** network.

Stablecoins will have more in payments, particularly in the U.S., and in behind-the-scenes transactions. But the fastest way into most people's wallets will be through a card.

—Te

How Diapers Predict The Stock Market

Demography may be destiny, but can understanding it make you money?

Growing or aging populations have been behind some of the wrongest economic predictions ever. The most infamous was by Thomas Malthus who in the late 18th century foresaw global war and starvation. And it was barely a decade ago that author Harry S. Dent Jr. said the Dow Jones Industrial Average would fall as low as 5500 as retiring baby boomers caused a depression.

But getting the analysis right, which required some nuance, could have paid off big time. For example, the migration of hundreds of millions of young Chinese people from the countryside to coastal factories helps explain the U.S. investing bubbles of the last few decades.

It kept inflation low and, indirectly, money cheap, but at the cost of hollowing out American manufacturing. Retiring baby boomers notwithstanding, America's younger population and friendliness to immigration helped



make economic growth stronger than that of export powerhouses like Japan.

The next 30 years don't look as rosy. A measure called the dependency ratio—the number of people above retirement age for every 100 still in their working years—is now around 29 in the U.S. compared with 19 back in 2010. A report



China's one-child policy and rising life expectancy helped cause an epic deterioration in its dependency ratio.

from Vicky Redwood at Capital Economics predicts it will be above 39 by 2055.

That matters. Working people pay taxes that fund new roads, help governments finance deficits and, crucially, pay for the health and living expenses of all those retirees. Japan, where adult diapers have outsold baby ones for years, is far worse off today than America at 51. Germany, another export powerhouse facing anemic growth, is at 40.

But the scariest deterioration will be in the country that helped make America's boom possible: China's yearslong one-child policy,

rising life expectancy and babies seemingly going out of fashion have combined to cause an epic deterioration. Its dependency ratio was an ultralow 10.3 at the turn of the century. It is twice that now and is seen reaching 63 in 2055—23 points higher than America's projected level.

The upshot for investors is that owning both stocks and bonds in the developed world could be less rewarding. Higher interest rates, expensive labor and more money diverted to benefits will sap economic growth. And faltering pension plans—America's main Social Security trust fund might be ex-

hausted by 2034—could even spark intergenerational conflict.

For developing countries other than China, though, the picture is brighter. India, Mexico, South Africa and Brazil have lots of young people and slowly rising dependency ratios. More troubled ones like Nigeria are even lower and falling. Meanwhile, many of their long-shunned stocks are cheap—emerging markets overall fetch a little over half of America's earnings multiple.

Lots of babies aren't the only reason they might be good places to invest, but it's a big one.

—Spencer Jakab

MARKETS

Emirati Oil Boss Grabs U.S. Energy Moment

By CHRISTOPHER M. MATTHEWS AND BENOIT MORENNE

Standing in one of Abu Dhabi's ornate palaces last month, the oil boss Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber presented President Trump with a gift: a single drop of oil from the emirate's Murban Bab oil field.

"The highest-quality oil there is on the planet, and they only gave me a drop,"

investors in U.S. energy.

During Trump's visit to Abu Dhabi, Al Jaber briefed the president on the plans as the pair stood before a giant screen emblazoned with the phrase "Making Energy Great Again." Trump, who has aggressively courted foreign investment, was thrilled, said people familiar with the matter.

The investment plan puts Al Jaber at the center of the relationship between the U.S. and

West, and we have become a global economic center," Al Jaber said in an interview.

About a year ago, Adnoc purchased a 11.7% stake in a \$18 billion natural-gas export terminal being built by the developer NextDecade at the Port of Brownsville in Texas. The plant, which is expected to start producing liquefied natural gas in 2027, will be one of the largest in the world.

Such an in-

vestment by that of its powerful ally—and sometimes rival—Saudi Arabia. Aramco, Saudi Arabia's national oil company, is a petrochemical powerhouse in dozens of countries. But the U.A.E. has started to catch up.

Abu Dhabi-owned companies and funds, including Adnoc and Mubadala Energy, invested billions of dollars in stakes in natural-gas projects

partner of Kimmeridge, said America offers the U.A.E. low-cost energy supplies needed to develop AI capabilities. "The U.A.E. and the U.S. are becoming natural partners," he said.

The U.A.E. has sought to build a dominant AI sector to bolster its postoil economy. During Trump's visit, Emirati officials persuaded his team to greenlight a deal to give their country access to millions of Nvidia's most-advanced chips.



Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, CEO of Abu Dhabi's Adnoc.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES | News Corp.

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★★ \$5.00

DJIA 42581.78 ▲ 374.96 0.89%

NASDAQ 19630.97 ▲ 0.9%

STOXX 600 535.03 ▼ 0.3%

10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 14/32, yield 4.321%

OIL \$68.51 ▼ \$5.33

GOLD \$3,377.70 ▲ \$9.60

EURO \$1.1578

YEN 146.15

What's News

Business & Finance

◆ Oil prices retreated and stocks climbed, with crude futures falling 7.2% and the S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq gaining 1%, 0.9% and 0.9%, respectively. **A1**

◆ Novo Nordisk ended its partnership with Hims & Hers after accusing the telehealth company of illegally selling cheaper copies of its weight-loss drug and engaging in deceptive marketing. **B1**

◆ Fair Isaac Corp. said it would introduce a new model that factors "buy now, pay later" loans into its credit scores. **A14**

◆ Fiserv said it plans to launch a stablecoin and platform that could be used by about 3,000 regional and community client banks. **B1**

◆ German media group Axel Springer said it plans to double its value within five years supported by AI, calling time on the business model of maximizing clicks and advertising. **B3**

◆ Alibaba folded its food-delivery and online-travel services into its core e-commerce unit, streamlining operations in the face of fiercer competition. **B3**

◆ Continental teamed up with semiconductor company GlobalFoundries to design its own computer chips for vehicles. **B4**

◆ Semiconductor supplier Wolfspeed signed a deal with top creditors to cut roughly \$4.6 billion in debt through a bankruptcy filing. **B4**

◆ Hotel owners were in open revolt against Los Angeles's new \$30-an-hour minimum wage, the latest blow to one of the country's poorest-performing lodging markets. **A1**

World-Wide

◆ Iran fired missiles against the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East after giving advance notice of the attack, Trump said, adding that the barrage caused no casualties and little damage. **A1**

◆ Israel is looking to wrap up its war with Iran soon, Israeli and Arab officials said, capitalizing on the U.S. attack on key Iranian nuclear sites to accelerate an end to the fighting. **A8**

◆ Half-a-dozen ships since Sunday have diverted course on their way to the Strait of Hormuz, the waterway connecting the energy-rich Persian Gulf to global markets. **A9**

◆ Russian drones and missiles killed at least 14 civilians and injured several dozen others in Ukraine in overnight attacks. **A10**

◆ New York intends to build a large nuclear-power facility, the first major new U.S. plant undertaken in more than 15 years, with the state's governor calling for at least 1 gigawatt of new generation. **A3**

◆ The number of abortions in the U.S. accessed through telemedicine is growing, as are challenges to the avenue that has allowed patients to circumvent near-total abortion bans in some states. **A3**

◆ The Senate is considering a change to federal fuel-economy rules that would loosen the nation's

Iran Fires Missiles at U.S. Base in Qatar



Trump says Tehran warned in advance, offering an opening toward de-escalation

By STEPHEN KALIN
AND LARA SELIGMAN

Iran fired a missile barrage against the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East after giving "early notice" of the attack, President Trump said, adding that Tehran's careful response to Washington's weekend attack on its nuclear facilities offered an opening to de-escalate the conflict.

All but one of 14 missiles launched toward Al Udeid air base in Qatar were shot down by U.S. forces with help from Qatar, and the remaining one flew off course, causing no casualties and little damage, Trump said.

By telegraphing the attack, Iran appeared to have responded to the U.S. strikes in a way that allowed it to avoid further retaliation from Washington. Trump urged Tehran over the weekend not to retaliate and to negotiate an end to the war, which Israel initiated on June 13.

"I want to thank Iran for giving us early notice, which made it possible for no lives to be lost, and nobody to be injured," Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social. "Perhaps Iran can now proceed to Peace and Harmony in the Region."

Iran told Arab intermediaries its well-telegraphed response should be seen as an off ramp and that it is ready to return to serious negotiations, Arab officials said. The U.S. has signaled through the same channels that so far it doesn't want to retaliate, they said.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei of Iran said his country would respond when attacked, in his first public comments since Iran launched missiles at a U.S. base in Qatar. *Please turn to page A8*

FROM TOP: AP/GETTY IMAGES; ANDREW GREGORY/GETTY IMAGES



Remnants of an Iranian missile that was intercepted over Qatar, top, and missiles over the capital city of Doha on Monday.

Oil Drops, Stocks Rise After Attack

By ALEXANDER OSIPOVICH

Oil prices retreated and stocks climbed after Iran's retaliation against the U.S. avoided striking critical energy infrastructure on Monday, easing fears that the conflict in the Middle East would roil crude markets.

U.S. oil futures fell 7.2% after Iran launched missiles at a U.S. base in Qatar and into Iraq, with no casualties reported. The drop was a sharp reversal from Sunday night, when U.S. oil prices surged more than 6% in response to the U.S. bombing of Iran's nuclear sites over the weekend. Officials said the

President Trump's decision to bomb Iran had raised fears that Tehran might retaliate by choking off the Strait of Hormuz, a key bottleneck for Middle East oil exports. Instead, Iran opted on Monday to strike U.S. military facilities in the region—with little immediate impact. Officials said the

missile attack on Al Udeid Air Base, where the U.S. has a large military presence, was intercepted. Iran also warned Qatar ahead of the attack, Arab officials said.

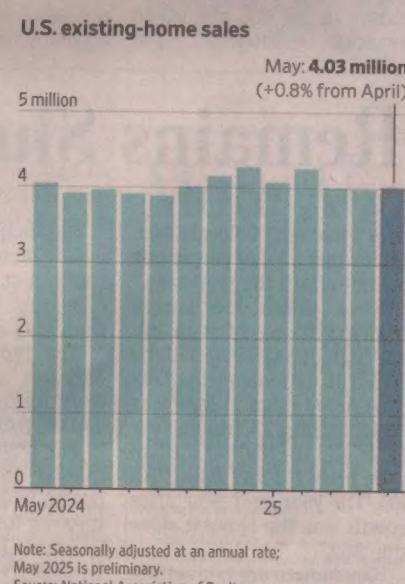
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◆ Israel aims to end fight with Iran **A8**

◆ Ships diverted from Strait of Hormuz **A9**

Home Sales Inch Up

Sales of existing homes rose slightly in May, up 0.8% from the previous month. Sales were better than expected but still subdued. The spring market is usually the busiest time of the year for the housing industry, yet prospective buyers are staying away because of high home prices. **A2**



New Meatpacking Plant's Pitch To Attract American Workers

Nebraska factory has ergonomic stations, no night shift as immigration crackdown threatens traditional labor force

NORTH PLATTE, Neb.—Angela Jones feels fortunate to have landed a job at the new meatpacking plant in this stagnant prairie

By Scott Calvert, Arian Campo-Flores and Patrick Thomas

town she's long called home. She earns \$24.50 an hour—far more than she made as a convenience-store clerk, custodian or construction flagger—and has health insurance for the first time in over 20 years.

But she's also felt stress learning her quality-control duties, such as scrutinizing meat cuts moving down the line and ensuring workers properly sanitize their tools. Days before the May opening, she confided her concerns to the human resources and safety manager, who tried to buck her up with a pep talk.

"I just don't want to disappoint my company," Jones, 58, said from under her hard hat. "Or myself."

A similar mix of optimis

A Creepy Doll Pushes People To Extremes

Devotees will do almost anything

New \$30 Hourly Pay Vexes L.A. Hoteliers

By KATE KING

Hotel owners are in open revolt against Los Angeles's

with 60 rooms or more. Hourly pay, currently \$20.32, will increase every year until it reaches \$30 in 2028.

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last week: DJIA 42206.82 ▲ 9.03 0.02% NASDAQ 19447.41 ▲ 0.2% STOXX 600 536.53 ▼ 1.5% 10-YR. TREASURY ▲ 12/32, yield 4.374% OIL \$74.93 ▲ \$1.95 EURO \$1.1525 YEN 146.10

What's News

Business & Finance

♦ **Mark Zuckerberg** has been personally and intensely involved in the recruitment of researchers and engineers to beef up Meta Platforms' artificial-intelligence-development efforts. **B1**

♦ **Dine Brands**, the company behind Applebee's and IHOP, plans to use AI in its restaurants and back office to streamline operations and encourage repeat customers. **B3**

♦ **"How to Train Your Dragon"** led the domestic box office for the second straight weekend, having accumulated receipts of \$160.5 million since its release. **B2**

♦ **Bank of New York Mellon** approached Northern Trust to express interest in merging with its smaller rival in what would be a heavyweight deal for the financial-services industry. **B3**

♦ **News Corp's board** extended CEO Robert Thomson's contract through June 2030, keeping him at the helm during a period in which AI's rapid development is reshaping the industry. **B3**

♦ **Tesla rolled out its long-awaited robotaxi service** in Austin, Texas, opening the electric-vehicle maker to the growing autonomous ride-hailing market. **B5**

♦ **ARB Interactive**, the company behind online Modo Casino, emerged as the winning bidder in a recent bankruptcy auction for the assets of Publishers Clearing House. **B5**

♦ **Ordinary investors** appear to be souring on big tech commitments as they await fresh figures this week on consumer confidence, first-quarter GDP and the Fed's preferred inflation gauge. **B1**

World-Wide

♦ **American forces** hit the hardest of hard targets in Iran's nuclear program, using stealth bombers and massive bunker-busting munitions to strike the heavily fortified Fordow uranium-enrichment complex. **A1, A6**

♦ **The course of the conflict** and its resolution now depend on how badly the U.S. and Israel have damaged Iran's nuclear capabilities and whether Tehran will choose to retaliate, and how. **A1**

♦ **Forecasters warned** that dangerously hot and humid weather will keep blanketing millions of people in the U.S. this week as a heat dome traps the sweltering air. **A2**

♦ **Defense lawyers for Sean "Diddy" Combs** will soon attempt to counter the mountain of evidence prosecutors have offered in the sex-trafficking case against the hip-hop mogul. **A3**

♦ **The Trump-era rollback** of transgender rights is gaining momentum, as a nascent acceptance of more-inclusive societal norms ebbs in the political and legal spheres. **A3**

♦ **A push by fellow Democrats** to persuade voters to leave Andrew Cuomo off the ballot complicates the candidate's bid to win his party's primary in the New York City mayoral race. **A3**

U.S. Weighs Strikes' Damage in Iran

Tehran could further drag in Washington, or focus on war of attrition with Israel

BY SHAYNDI RAICE
AND SUDARSHAN RAGHAVAN

JERUSALEM—After hitting Iran's key nuclear facilities, President Trump wrote on Truth Social that now was the time for peace. It is unlikely to be up to him.

U.S. officials have signaled that the strikes were a one-off intervention and they are now seeking de-escalation. Iran has vowed to hit back at American interests. And Israeli leaders have told its citizens to be prepared for a long campaign.

The course of the conflict and whether it is settled on the battlefield or at the negotiating table will hinge on at least two key variables: First, how badly the U.S. and Israel have damaged Iran's nuclear capabilities and, second, will Iran choose to retaliate and how.

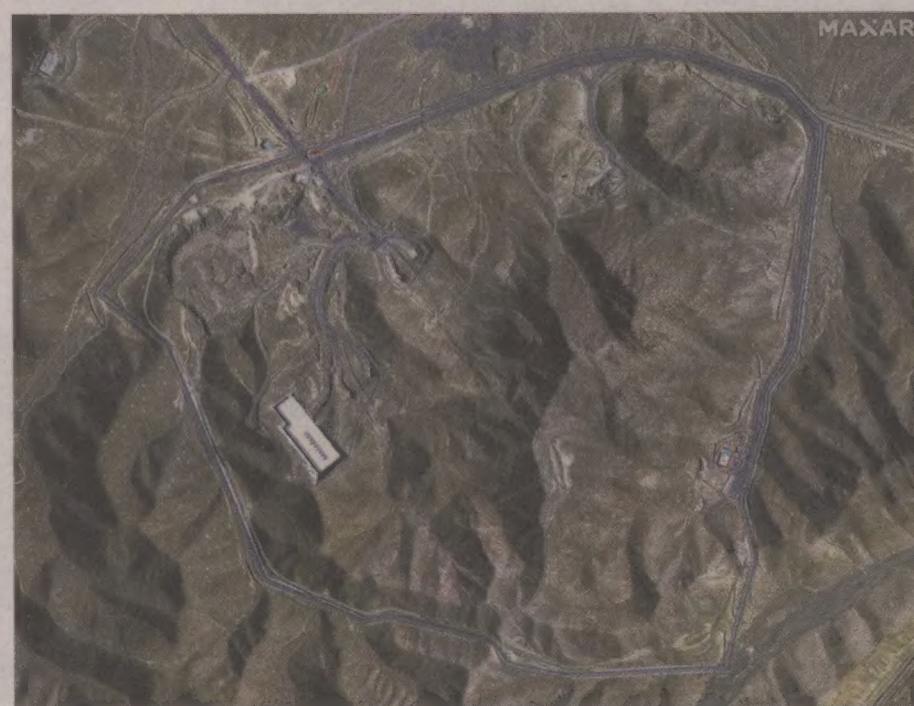
If Iran follows through on its promise to target U.S. military bases and other assets in the Middle East, it could spark a broader conflagration—something President Trump had pledged to avoid.

Iranian missiles hitting U.S. installations in Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain or elsewhere would likely prove impossible for Trump to ignore.

Israel has its own agenda, which goes beyond halting Iran's uranium enrichment to eliminating its ballistic missile program and maybe all the way to regime change, something the U.S. says it isn't seeking. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel was "very, very close" to achieving its war aims, the first hint that it could be open to an end to fighting.

"De-escalation will happen when both sides want it," said Phillips O'Brien, professor of

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Satellite images collected by Maxar Technologies show the Fordow underground nuclear complex in Iran before the weekend's U.S. airstrikes, top, and after the bombing, above, which shows several large holes punched in a ridge over the underground installation.

Deep-underground uranium site hit by bunker-busters; 'too early' to know result

BY LAURENCE NORMAN
AND OMAR ABDEL-BAQUI

DUBAI—American forces hit the hardest of hard targets in Iran's nuclear program, using stealth bombers and bunker-busting munitions to strike the heavily fortified Fordow uranium-enrichment complex. It could take weeks to know how much damage they inflicted.

Satellite images collected by Maxar Technologies after the weekend attack show several large holes punched in a ridge over the underground installation. Maxar also said entrances to it were blocked with dirt and debris after the U.S. dropped 12 GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrators, each weighing 30,000 pounds, for the first time in warfare. The surface was coated with a layer of gray-blue ash.

Divining what happened to the vast arrays of centrifuges and other sensitive equipment that once operated within will likely only be known if international inspectors can access the sites. They are currently unable to visit nuclear facilities because of the attacks, and it could be weeks before they are able or allowed to.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Sunday, "All of our precision missiles struck where we wanted them to strike," adding: "We believe we achieved destruction of capabilities" at Fordow.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Dan Caine said it was "way too early" to know the extent of damage.

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♦ **U.S. strike on Iran began with a ruse** A6
♦ **Countries broadcast their spies' exploits** A8

How Trump Got to 'Yes' on Military Mission

WASHINGTON—President Trump was flying over the palatial estates that neighbor his New Jersey golf club on Saturday when he made one of the

By Tarini Parti,
Josh Dawsey, Siobhan
Hughes and Alex Leary

most consequential decisions of his presidency.

As he barreled toward a nearby airport on Marine One, before flying to Washington,

Trump received a call from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. It was time to make a final decision: move forward with U.S. strikes on Iran or abort the mission. The president, who had grown convinced that diplomacy alone wouldn't prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, gave Hegseth the green light, according to a senior administration official.

Hours later, B-2 bombers targeted nuclear sites in Iran, the culmination of a frenetic

week of behind-the-scenes deliberations marked by covert plans to keep the operation a secret.

Trump and his advisers say the strikes were a targeted campaign to impede Tehran's nuclear ambitions. But the move threatens to drag the U.S. into a broader conflagration in the Middle East, potentially further dividing Trump's political coalition.

Ultimately, though, Trump saw the operation as a way to

assert U.S. dominance. "Our country is hot as a pistol," Trump told The Wall Street Journal in a brief interview on Sunday. He called the strikes "a great victory for our country."

Trump had been under pressure for weeks from his advisers and opposing wings of his MAGA coalition. Hawks, such as Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, were pushing the president to take military action, while some well-

known conservatives, such as Tucker Carlson and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R., Ga.), warned that hitting Iran was a mistake.

The hawks ultimately won out, as diplomatic efforts sputtered. Steve Witkoff, an influential Trump adviser who had long held out hope for a nuclear deal with Tehran, told the president that the Iranians were stringing the White House along. Israeli officials,

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Premium Credit Cards Are Getting Even Pricier

BY IMANI MOISE
AND JACOB PASSY

When JPMorgan Chase said it was raising the annual fee by 45% on its popular Sapphire Reserve credit card, longtime cardholder David O'Brien didn't notice.

"My eyes glaze over with

INSIDE



PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY
Eyeglasses with built-in hearing aids sound promising. **A12**



OBITUARY
Fred Smith, who built FedEx into a global delivery giant, dies at age 80. **B1**

A UFO Legend Lands Up at Elite Defense Lab

A piece of metal said to be from space takes an odd, three-decade journey

BY JOEL SCHETMAN
AND ARUNA VISWANATHA

The Pentagon man gathered

of the country's most secret projects—had, in fact, just tested, and attempted to replicate, a piece of metal that

REVIEW

Do Countries Now Need Nukes to Survive?

WSJ

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND

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What's News

Business & Finance

◆ A U.S. official told top global semiconductor makers he wanted to revoke waivers they have used to access American technology in China, people familiar with the matter said. **A2**

◆ Sit-down restaurants such as Cracker Barrel and Red Lobster are spending millions of dollars to update their menus and dining rooms after one of the toughest periods for the sector in years. **B9**

◆ Accenture's bookings dropped 6% in the quarter, prompting investor concerns about federal contracts. **B10**

◆ Aflac has been hit with a cyberattack that may have resulted in the theft of personal data related to the insurer's U.S. business. **B10**

◆ CarMax logged higher profit and sales in its latest quarter as tariff uncertainty sparked an uptick in demand for used cars. **B9**

◆ Kroger raised its same-store sales outlook after its latest quarter's performance, helping send shares up 10%. **B9**

◆ The outlook for the U.S. economy dimmed further in May amid uncertainty over Trump's trade policies. **A2**

◆ Fears of war put Wall Street in a holding pattern this past week, with oil prices grinding higher. **B10**

World-Wide

◆ Talks with European leaders and Iran ended without a breakthrough as waves of Israeli warplanes hit targets across Iran for the past week, testing the limits of what air power alone can achieve in the conflict. **A1, A8, A10-11**

◆ The U.S. is sending more warships capable of shooting down ballistic missiles to the Middle East as Iranian attacks drain Israel's stocks of interceptors. **A8**

◆ A federal judge ordered the release of Mahmoud Khalil, more than three months after the former Columbia student was first detained by immigration officials. **A3**

◆ The aggressive effort to fulfill Trump's pledge of mass deportations is testing the bounds of what Americans will tolerate. **A7**

◆ Health insurers plan to pledge steps meant to smooth the controversial preapproval process that can deny or delay access to care. **A3**

◆ The Supreme Court ruled that U.S. victims of terrorist attacks or their survivors could sue Palestinian authorities for damages. **A6**

◆ A U.S. appellate court ruled that a Louisiana law requiring the Tea Commiss



SPLASH, SPLASH: People cool off at the Yards Park in Washington on Friday, the first official day of summer. Forecasters warn that dangerously hot and humid weather will grip the Midwest this weekend, then head for the East Coast.

Miller Holds Sway in Trump 2.0, With His Fingerprints Everywhere

BY JOSH DAWSEY
AND REBECCA BALLHAUS

Stephen Miller wanted to keep the planes in the air—and that's where they stayed.

When a federal judge in March told the Trump administration to turn around flights of deported migrants headed to El Salvador, senior officials hastily convened a Saturday evening conference call to figure out what to do.

If they didn't return the passengers, they would be de-

fying a court order, some administration officials worried. Miller, who is President Trump's deputy chief of staff, pushed for the planes to keep flying, which they ultimately did. The judge would later say that allowing officials to defy court judgments would make a "solemn mockery" of the Constitution.

The 39-year-old immigration hawk, who has been by Trump's side since the 2016 campaign, has emerged as a singular figure in the second

Trump administration, wielding more power than almost any other White House staffer in recent memory—and eager to circumvent legal limitations on his agenda.

He has his own staff of about 30 and a Secret Service detail, which White House officials said was because he had received death threats and serves as homeland security adviser. He has been responsible for the administration's broadsides against universities, law firms and

even museums. He has written or edited every executive order that Trump has signed.

Miller had considerable sway in Trump's first term in office. But when aides at the time suggested promoting Miller to a leadership role at the Department of Homeland Security, Trump declined, according to a former administration official, telling aides

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◆ Immigration issue turns against Trump..... A7

Iran Remains Defiant As Israel Fights On

Israeli military officials test theory that war can't be won with air power alone

BY MARCUS WALKER

Talks with European leaders and Iran ended Friday without a breakthrough as waves of Israeli warplanes hit targets across Iran for the past week, testing the limits of what air power alone can achieve in the conflict.

The fighting threatens to intensify with the possible entry of the U.S. if diplomacy can't resolve the standoff over Iran's nuclear program. Top European officials lined up behind the Trump administration's demand that Iran give up its uranium-enrichment program. Iran has remained defiant, raising doubts about whether a negotiated solution can be found.

Israel has gained air superiority since the conflict began and has carried out hundreds of strikes. Conventional wisdom among military thinkers has long been that missiles and bombs, while essential to modern warfare, are seldom enough to achieve victory on their own, especially if the strategic aims of the warring states are expansive.

In this case, Israel has said its goal is to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, by physically destroying its ability

Please turn to page A10

◆ Pressure builds on Iran as diplomacy stalls..... A8
◆ Israel is burning through missile interceptors..... A8
◆ Iranian Jews in U.S. dream of a 'free Iran'..... A11

INSIDE



U.S. NEWS
A federal judge orders the release of Columbia protester Mahmoud Khalil. **A3**



EXCHANGE
The biggest companies now think fewer employees means faster growth. **B1**

When Towns Rebuild From Disaster, Prices Go Up

In the economic upheaval that follows wildfires and hurricanes, some residents get squeezed out

The coastal community of Panama City, Fla., has largely recovered since Hurricane Michael ravaged the Florida Panhandle in 2018—but it isn't the same place. The down-

By Arian Campo-Flores, Cameron McWhirter and Paul Overberg

town, once a sleepy district with run-down buildings and lawyers' offices, now bustles with boutiques and breweries. Much of the housing stock is fancier and pricier, and residents are generally wealthier.

More than 2,000 miles west, a similar dy-

namic has played out in the small hill town of Paradise, Calif., as it tries to come back from the Camp Fire that incinerated the region that same year. Many poorer residents have moved out, more-affluent newcomers have moved in and home prices have climbed.

Panama City and Paradise stand as vivid examples of an emerging cycle in this era of more-extreme weather in America: Communities struck by disasters often grow richer and more exclusive. Hurricanes in the South, tornadoes in the heartland and wildfires in the West increasingly are followed by similar

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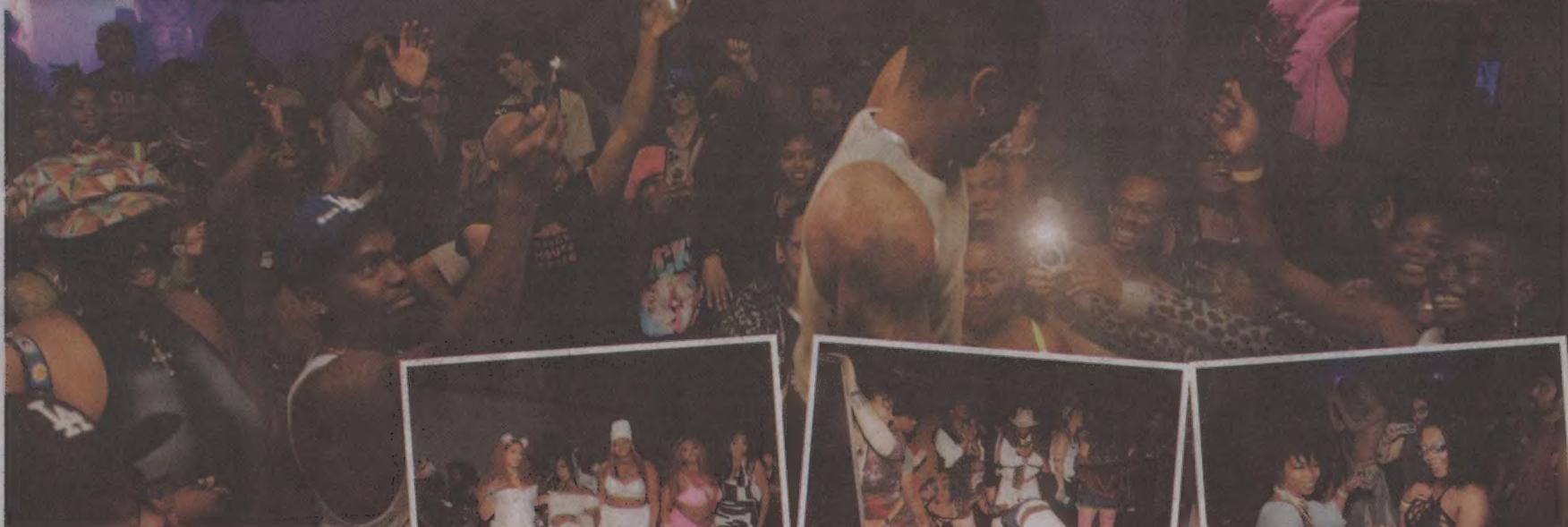
OUR FAVORITE
LGBTQ+ PARTIES
IN LA 2025

BY FRANCISCO REFUERZO

OSTBAHNHOF

OUR FAVORITE LGBTQ+ PARTIES IN LOS ANGELES 2025

BY FRANCISCO REFUERZO



Hood Rave

PHOTOS BY ORI DAVIS

With June coming to an end, early onset Pride burnout is upon us. But if you've been on a dance floor in LA, you know that there's a gay in a corner, snapping a hand fan with a flick of the wrist, blessing everyone with a "clack clack clack" anytime of the year. You can't see it, but you can feel it. That's kind of the vibe of this list of LGBTQ+ parties in LA. This short list of parties happen all year long and represent a small glimpse into the massively diverse universe of queer nightlife in LA.

Not gonna lie, writing this gave us Doechii-level anxiety. From circuit parties to pool parties, bear-forward raves to twink-heavy afterhours, and Resident Advisor to Facebook-official events, deciding which events count as parties is next to impossible. LA's queer nightlife is built on the backs of local legends like Evita, Bears in Space, and Club Tempo, and global divas like pan-sexual disco A Club Called Rhonda and Mexico City import Por Detroit. Let's also pour one out for all the queer parties and venues that aren't around anymore, Tigerheat, Gameboi, Faultline Bar. The aforementioned parties (and many more) undoubtedly played a big role in the formative

years of the LGBTQ+ folks who are at the helm of queer nightlife in Los Angeles in 2025.

For this list, we focused on burgeoning LA-grown parties that have shown resilience and staying power. Even so, it is far from an exhaustive register of all the new and emerging LGBTQ+ parties in LA. Trying to make a definitive list of the best queer parties in LA is like choosing a pop diva as your fighter at a Celebrity Deathmatch drag brunch — chaotic, dehydrating, and someone coming for you in the comments. So we didn't even try (even though Mariah Carey obviously wins in my Celebrity Deathmatch fantasy, fight me). Instead, we put together a short list featuring some of LA's favorite LGBTQ+ parties. Collectively, these parties not only continue the legacy of LA's storied nightlife, they represent a changing of the guard for queer culture in LA and demonstrate that the city is fully back from its post-pandemic hibernation.

We get it: pride is exhausting, Liquid IV is expensive, and someone scuffed your dancing shoes (oh no, not your new

Stan Smiths!!). But only in a city as sprawling and confusing as LA — with two giant Pride celebrations in June (plus Long Beach in May and DTLA in August), and a sprinkling of smaller neighborhood Prides — are you allowed to complain about Pride oversaturation. But once you catch your breath, these parties will be here for you, bass bumping and fans clacking.

Hood Rave by Kumi James aka BAE BAE and DJ Kita

You haven't really gone out in LA until you've been to Hood Rave.

Hood Rave isn't your average house party or warehouse rave — it is a full-on vibe. Its earliest iterations started in 2020, with parties happening out of unassuming venues in South LA such as barbershops and car garages. Officially launching in 2021, Hood Rave quickly grew to be one of LA's hottest underground parties, even getting the Boiler Room stamp of approval with a full-stage takeover at Boiler Room's LA party in 2024.

The Hood Rave co-creators BAE BAE

and DJ Kita have been throwing parties since 2016, starting with a party called Love is the Plug, followed by Black Planet. Those parties focused on bringing together the Black community across all differences, including gender, class, and ability. But Hood Rave hits a little different. It's a place where black and brown femme and queer DJs, performers, and community (be they non-binary, trans, or cis) aren't just welcomed, they're the whole reason you came!

Set against a backdrop of the newest electronic music and hip hop sound, the Hood Rave crew — including co-producer Bunny — wanted to give this community a platform that both celebrates their talents and also creates a safer space for partying in LA. They provide Narcan kits and fentanyl testing strips, as well as safety monitors and other support to make sure people can party safely. The team likes to keep events underground and allow their community to hold space where they are, and not have to branch out to the more gentrified areas of LA.

"Hood Rave is a place where we can be free!" says BAE BAE.



COURTESY PRESSED JUICERY

The full cocktail lineup will be available throughout the month during the hotel's weekly "Good Times in The Tangerine Room" event at The Front Yard's new intimate space, The Tangerine Room. The iconic Ruby Slipper cocktail will be available at The Front Yard and the Lobby Bar daily.

The colorful lineup of sips includes: **Ruby Slipper (red):** Featuring 818 Blanco Tequila, Combier, Chambord, fresh raspberries, lime juice, edible glitter, and garnish of a lemon twist – available daily at The Front Yard and Lobby Bar

Soul Train Spritz (orange): Complete with Aperol, Sprinter Peach, peach

juice, and fresh peach slice garnish
Mellow Queen (yellow): With 818 Blanco Tequila, lemon juice, passion fruit juice, mint, firewater bitters, and garnished with a mint sprig and lime wheel

Disco Nap (green): Featuring 818 Blanco Tequila, Midori, Cointreau, lemon juice, and melon ball garnish

Blue Boy (blue): With 818 Reposado Tequila, lime juice, Sprite, blue curaçao, mint, and mint sprig + lemon or lime twist garnish

Lavender Menace (purple): Boasting 818 Reposado Tequila, lime juice, prickly pear juice, lavender syrup, and fresh lavender sprig. □



Pride cocktails

COURTESY THE GARLAND

LA WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Research Associate (Los Angeles, CA) sought by University of Southern California. Investigate neural modulation focusing on the corticolimbic circuit of the human brain during different aspects of motor control, w/ emphasis on motor uncertainty; investigate the effects of intracranial electrical brain stimulation in the hippocampus during memory encoding & retrieval. Hybrid sched permitted. \$76,441.80 - \$87,586.06/yr. MUST follow these specific application instructions in order to be considered. Send CV & cover letter to Lupe.Montes@med.usc.edu w/in 30 days.

Marketing Manager, F/T, Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Marketing Communications, Media, or Related. Mail resume: LAN Auto Spa, LLC, 7381 S. La Cima Blvd., Unit 452462, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Database Administrator: f/t, manage database. BS in Computer Science, Computational Mathematics or related. Resume: Onion Images Corporation @ 17162 Murphy Ave Ste B, Irvine, CA 92614.

Graphic Designer @ Biornature Management Inc. in Pasadena, CA. JD: Produce tailored mkt materials, Design & Dev digital assets for online platforms, social media & web, Create motion graphics & video contents; Dev design templates & assets, Present design concepts, Ed Req: BA in Art, Design or closely related fields. Exp Req: Min 2 yr in graphic design, focus on visual for digital & print media, Min 2 yr design content for social media platforms including TikTok & FB, Min 2 yr do video editing & production, create video content, Min 2 yr use Adobe Creative Suite for design & visuals, Min 2 yr use data-driven insights from social media analytics to adjust design strategies, Min 2 yr web design & UX optimization \$52,800/yr. Email resume to info@purecellinefilm.com.

Budget Analyst (City of Industry, CA): Compile/analyze bus. Fin'l data w/ advanced quantitative analysis w/ Eview, Prep budget/fin'l reports, MIS Report: ing analysis for budget planning using Acumatica. Compile statistical data to prep budgets, allocating resources/estimating future fin'l needs. Monitor spending. Advise on fin'l resource allocation & fund investment/rgmt; w/ knowl of investment analysis. Prep fin'l plans/operating & capital budgets. Attend meetings, present findings for budget/finance planning. MS + 1 yr exp \$88,254/yr. HR, ENS Security, 5000 Frankfort Rd., Plano, TX 75023

Accountant, F/T Bachelor's in ac- counting, business, economics or any related. Mail resume: Revival Auto Collision Center, Inc. 11761 Sherman Way, North Hollywood, CA 91605

Application Developer: design & develop applications, MS in comp. sci., comp. info. sys or rtd w/ 2 yrs exp as App Devp or Software Devp or rtd. 40hrs/wk, pay range: \$126,942-\$156,000/yr. Send resume to Bank of Hope, Attn: Eric Liu, 3200 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 610, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Fashion Designer: Req'd. B.A. in Fashion or Clothing Design, or rtd. \$46,696/yr. Resume to: MSK Apparel, Inc. (dba) The Vintage Shop, 1721 E. 43rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90058

Data Scientist: Automate data models, maintain data \$150,000+ VCA Inc 100% Telecommute. Report to HQ in Los Angeles, CA. Travel to LA Cnty reqd 4x/yr for 1 week mtgs. MVHPSupport@officem.com

Lighting (Product) Designer in Beverly Hills, CA. Telecommuting for up to four days per week is allowed. Utilize data from research to create innovative lighting product designs. Participate in new product planning and perform market research. Work with other Product Designers by creating technical CAD's, product mockup, digital artwork rendering, and tech pack creation, etc. Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Design, Product Design, or related and 1 yr exp as Product Designer/Industrial Designer, Assistant Product Designer/Industrial Designer, or related req. Salary \$62,400/yr. Send resume to: Ardalan Zarabian, Brightech Inc 407 N. Maple Dr Studio - Ground Floor, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Accounting Advisory Senior Consultant sought by Crowe, LLP in Los Angeles, CA to examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records to prepare financial statements, give advice, or audit and evaluate statements prepared by others w/ up to 30% domestic travel req'd. 100% telecommuting permitted. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license req'd. Offered Salary: \$126,787.50-\$150,075.00 USD. Annual Multiple openings. For full job details, all reqs & to apply, visit: <https://careers.crowe.com/> and reference R-47685

Management Analyst: Food import/wholesaler in Torrance, CA. Bachelor in Business, Socio Science, Sociology, Psychology or related req'd. From \$64,709/yr. Mail resume to SHINMEI U.S.A. CORPORATION, 21151 S. Western Ave. #269, Torrance, CA 90501 Attn: hr@shinmei.com

Sr. Market Research Analyst (Commerce, CA) Collect & analyze complex mkt data on consumer trends, competitor activities, & brand performance to collaborate w/ cross-functional teams to transform these insights into actionable initiatives. Master's deg in mkt research, communications, or a rtd field (foreign educational deg equiv acceptable) 2 yrs work exp analyzing mkt data & industry trends to help devp a co's effective mktg strategies & operations. Proficiency in SPSS, SAP, MS Project, Excel, & PowerPoint. Send resume to hr@jantzenbrands.com or Jantzen Brands Corp c/o Nick Lee, 5300 S. Eastern Ave., Ste 100, Commerce, CA 90040

FINANCE: Latham & Watkins, LLP has an oppy for a **Global Technology Finance Mgr**. Prepares annual capital and expense budgets, and ensures budget compliance. \$100,000/yr to \$280,000/00/yr. Up to 10% dom travel & up to 10% int'l travel required. Position based in Los Angeles, CA. Hybrid position requiring work in the office with the ability to telecommute on days when not in the office. Email resume w/Ref# 8388740 to Brittany Dryer@lw.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o sponsp'rship. EOE

Jewish School Administrative Assistant: Assist Head of School in coordinating & scheduling religious educational programs reflective of the Orthodox Jewish Culture & Traditions for students, faculty, & parents. Job site: Los Angeles, CA. Min. H.S. Diploma or foreign equiv., + 1 yr exp. as Jewish School Administrative Assistant, or Religious Programs Coordinator + knowledge of Orthodox Jewish Culture, Customs & Traditions req'd. Mail to Shulav Israel Torah Center, attn: Rabbi Laniado @ 8853 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035

Accounting Advisory Senior Consultant sought by Crowe, LLP in Los Angeles, CA to examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records to prepare financial statements, give advice, or audit and evaluate statements prepared by others w/ up to 30% domestic travel req'd. 100% telecommuting permitted. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license req'd. Offered Salary: \$126,787.50-\$150,075.00 USD. Annual Multiple openings. For full job details, all reqs & to apply, visit: <https://careers.crowe.com/> and reference R-47685

Financial Analyst (Los Angeles, CA): Projecting future fin'l performance & identifying lucrative investment opportunities amidst the dynamic real estate landscape. Bach's deg in Finance, economics, or closely rtd field. 2 yrs of work exp performing fin'l operations & ensuring compliant fin'l reporting for real estate properties. Proficiency in QuickBooks, Yardi Software, & Microsoft Office. Offd Wage from \$71,635 - \$80,000. Send resume to justinekim@jamisonservices.com or Jamison Services, Inc. c/o Garrett Lee, 3470 Wilshire Blvd, Ste 700, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Quantitative Research Analyst (Torrance, CA) has an oppy for a Quantitative Research Analyst. Conduct quantitative analysis of factors and financial metrics and systematically integrate the results in portfolio construction

Nursing Instructor: Evaluate and grade students' class work, laboratory and clinic work assignments, and papers. Doctor of Medicine degree required. Resume to ANGELES COLLEGE, INC 3440 Wilshire Blvd. #310, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Goldberg & Associates seeks a **Senior Technical Product/Project Manager** to work on-site in Sherman Oaks, California, with some work in Melvindale, Michigan. The job will be performed in the California office location physically, however, the employee will need to travel to New York, Michigan, and Djibouti at least three times a year and remain at one location for at least three weeks during each trip. Responsibilities include managing CRM and ERP tools, bilingual English/Arabic systems development, digital campaigns, and staff supervision. Requires 4 years experience and a certificate in data analysis tools. A Master's degree in a related field may be accepted in the alternative. Must be fluent in Arabic and English, with 2 years' residence in an Arabic-speaking country. Salary is \$130,853 annually. Apply via email to usos@goldbergimmigration.com.

Best Formulations LLC in Industry, CA seeks **Process Engineer**: Conduct process-monitoring activities & perform machinery capability studies. \$80,000-\$110,000/yr. **TO APPLY** send your resume with reference Job Code (F025) to Jobs@bestformulations.com, and refer to this posting. EOE

Comp. game studio seeks a **Game Designer** to design the layouts for levels. Req: Bachelor's or foreign equiv in Interactive Technology. Comp. Graphic Art, or rel. plus 2 yrs exp. in job offered, or as Experience Designer, Level Designer, or rel. exp / skills must include Spatial Design, 3D editing software (Maya), Game Engine proficiency (Unreal, Unreal Engine) & Game Design Methodologies. Salary: \$117,100 - \$175,700/yr. Job site: Santa Monica, CA. Work Auth: req'd if hired. Send resume to: Naughty Dog, 2425 Olympic Blvd, Ste 3000 W, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Principals only

Professionals: CZV, Inc. dba Czinger located in Torrance, CA seeks multiple FT positions. **Director of Concept Engineering** (\$220K-\$259,300/yr). **Senior Software Development Engineer** (\$160,376-185,130/yr). Salary range in parens. Resumes to jca@divergent3d.com

Veterinarian: f/t. Diagnose & treat pet. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or equiv. CA Veterinary Lic. Resume Yeah One, Inc. @1451 W. Artesia Bl #3, Gardena, CA 90248

and optimization. \$125,000.00/yr to \$150,000.00/yr. Position based in Los Angeles, CA. Hybrid position requiring work in the office with the ability to telecommute on days when not in the office. Email resume w/Ref# 8328045

Administrative Mngr - Mng payroll, prep/review operational reports, provide support, assist budget data prep. Min Req: 2 yrs exp as Admin Mngr, Admin Coordinator, or related. Salary \$81556/yr. Mail resume to jobsite. Lehigh, Inc. 714 S. Plymouth Blvd., LA, CA 90005 Attn: Fred Hounian

International Project Analyst: Req'd: BA in International or Management Studies, or rtd \$64,709/yr. Resume to: ENK Apparel, Inc. (dba) BIBI 2425 E 30TH St., Vernon, CA 90058

Management Analyst: Shatsum Massage in Gardena, CA. High School Diploma/GED + 2 yrs of exp. as Management Analyst or any managerial exp req'd. Salary \$64,709/yr. Mail resume Tokyo Gumi Corporation (dba HIDE'S SHATSU) 1425 W. Artesia Blvd #31, Gardena, CA 90248, Attn: Yamada #31

Information Technology Project Manager: Co. in Burbank, CA seeks F/T IT Project Manager to maintain project dev lifecycle, manage project execution, communicate w/ stakeholders, lead DevOps team into CI/CD way of work, ensure on-time product delivery, ensure reqs & prod specs are clear & documented in Jira, ensure Dev team gets all info on time, assign duties & resp. of emps under superv, ensure high qual. standards, coord. & prob-solve w/ DevOps Team to resolve issues, prioritize agmts, handle project escalations, maint. project timeline exps., document operational proceds. W/ at least 1 yr exp. Req Bach. Deg. in Eng'g or Appl Maths. Jobsite in Burbank, CA, but telecommuting is preferred. Salary: \$66,726/yr. Send resume attn: HR, Film Solutions, LLC, 1121 S. Flower St., Burbank, CA 91502

Cumming Management Group, Inc. seeks **Director, Cost Management** in Los Angeles, CA. Responsible for preparing fee proposals and negotiating professional services agreements, as well as preparing and providing quality assurance to project cost estimates. Telecommuting permitted. Salary Range: \$165,374.98-\$175,374.98 per year. To apply, submit resume to tami.hoyt@cumming-group.com w/ ref. no. **ADDCMLA**. Equal Opportunity Employer, including disability/veterans

Associate Curator for online art seller Saatchi Online Inc. 100% telecommute, reports to HQ in LA, CA. May reside anywhere in the US. \$69,000/yr. Denise.phang@saatchionline.com

Senior Business Development Manager: Master's in Biz Admin or Related Req. \$108,014/yr. F/T. Resume to Yujin Jung, PHARMASEARCH USA, INC., 13834 Bettencourt St., Cerritos, CA 90703

Chief Executive Officer: Master's in Biz Admin or Related req. \$211,890/yr. F/T. Resume to Ayoung Kim, STARmed America Inc., 4801 Wilshire Blvd #280, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Assoc. Atty: Rep clients and draft petitions. Require JD or LL.M, CA Licensed. In Los Angeles CA. \$112,070/yr. Mail resume. Graizer, Kaplan, Vernik & Evans 3600 Wilshire Blvd, Ste 2100, Los Angeles CA 90010



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The Only Chinese Company that Won U.S. Anti-dumping & Anti-subsidy Suits

In “Anti-dumping” and “Anti-subsidy” investigations initiated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, as the only mandatory respondent from Mainland China, YAMA received an anti-dumping rate of ZERO and an anti-subsidy duty date of 1.56%, while others received a 125.12% to 248.69% punitive tariff. This is so far the best result that Chinese companies have obtained in responding to both “Anti-subsidy” and “Anti-dumping”. YAMA has hence become the only Chinese ribbon manufacturer that can export to U.S. market in the coming years and set up a good example for Chinese manufacturers and export enterprises.

九年申诉，喜获“姚明”商标

2013年6月28日，国家工商总局商标评审委员会发出关于“姚明”商标异议复审的裁定书，对姚明织带的“姚明”商标予以核准注册，至此姚明织带成功取得了“姚明”织带（第26类商品）商标。“姚明”商标注册案件非常经典，对很多企业的商标官司很有借鉴意义，同时也证明了企业与名人发生商标纠纷，企业不一定是输家。只要企业不是恶意注册，并且长期正当使用、有充分使用理由、证据充分，企业完全有机会获胜。

YAMA WON the trade mark of “姚明” in Mainland China

On June 28th, 2013, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of China released a written verdict about a trade mark objection retrial that YAMA's application for the trade mark—“姚明” in Mainland China have been approved. This means that YAMA wins the ownership of “姚明” trademark after nine-year of lawsuit with the former NBA Star—Yao Ming. The success of this case not only brings hope to YAMA's domestic sales strategy but also means a lot to the peers in China and set up a good mode for them.

领衔闽企，荣获“杰出领导力奖”

2013年8月，姚明织带荣获“2013中国管理模式杰出奖”之“杰出领导力奖”。姚明董事长从上届获奖者格力董事长董明珠手中接过奖杯和证书。这是历届福建企业首次获得的单项奖。“杰出奖”活动是第一个针对中国企业管理实践成就的荣誉奖项。姚明织带凭借其创新的“大销售、大生产、大库存”模式确立行业核心竞争优势，利用移动办公与社交网络技术实现精准化和时效性管理，真正实现领导力和执行力的快速落地。多项创举均获得专家评审团的高度赞扬，最终从多家提名企业中脱颖而出。

YAMA was Granted the Honor of “Excellent Leadership Award of China”

In Aug., 2013, YAMA was granted the honor of “Excellent Leadership Award”. This award is an authoritative and charity activity held by Chinese Society for Management Modernization. With the innovative business mode of “Scaled Production, Enormous Inventory and Massive Sales”, the comprehensive implement of Online Automation and EAS System and the active response to the U.S. “Anti-dumping & Anti-subsidy” suit, YAMA obtained high admiration from the Jury and won the award deservedly.

诚信经营，倍受银行系统价值认同



姚明织带招商银行价值认同卡



姚明织带建设银行卓越信用卡

凭借良好的社会形象和卓越业绩，2011年5月，姚明织带成为中国第一家被建设银行同时授予“姚明织带借记龙卡”和“姚明织带卓越信用卡”的制造型企业，聚焦了业界赞赏的目光。2013年8月，“姚明织带”再次与招商银行强强合作，在招行私人银行中心举行“价值认同卡”首发仪式。这是姚明织带2011年和建设银行合作，成为全国第一家同时发行银行企业借记卡和信用卡的制造型企业之后，又一次与大型银行合作，发行带有企业专属标志的银行卡。这是姚明织带信誉和荣耀的象征。如今的姚明织带还是厦门少数的可享受银行免抵押、免担保、全信用的企业之一。

Positive Cooperation with China Banking System

With its outstanding social image and faith management, YAMA shares high reputation in domestic banks. In May 2014, YAMA became the 1st manufacturing enterprise to be granted the “YAMA LOONG Debit Card” and the “YAMA EXCELLENT Credit Card”. In Aug., 2013, YAMA gained another approval from China Merchants Bank and was honored the “Value Identity Card”. So far, YAMA build a positive and cooperated relationship in Chinese banking system.

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2024-25 HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

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Volume 48, issue 25

CLASS OF 2025



Two graduates share an emotional embrace during Jordan High's commencement on June 10 at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Long Beach. **PHOTO BY HOWARD FRESHMAN**



Beckitt Lindstrom shows off her diploma at the Millikan graduation in Long Beach on June 11. **PHOTO BY TRACEY ROMAN**



Graduates celebrate by tossing their caps at their ceremony at Veterans Stadium.



A graduate shows off his diploma during the Lakewood High graduation.



A decorated mortarboard at the Cabrillo Graduation at Cabrillo High.



The graduates of the Class of 2025 celebrate after receiving their diplomas at Poly High.

IMMIGRATION

Thousands attend protests in the city

By Kristy Hutchings
KHUTCHINGS@SCNG.COM

Sarah Bettendorf, one of thousands of protesters who came out in force at Southern California for "No Kings Day" rallies on Saturday, made sure to dress for the occasion. She came as the Statue of Liberty.

"I'm Lady Liberty," Bettendorf, an aerospace worker, said, "and Lady Liberty stands for kindness, compassion and hope."

"We're here to say no to the haters," she said. "We're here to stand up for Constitutional Rights and protect all immigrants, because it is important to remember that there are no kings and that we all have rights."

Similar demonstrations took place across the country on Saturday in opposition to President Trump's military parade in Washington D.C. — which also happened to fall on the president's birthday. In Long Beach, there was also a focus on protesting against the Trump administration and recent federal immigration raids in Los Angeles County.

The Bixby Park protest was scheduled to start at 9 a.m. and before the hour was over, thousands had amassed, with the crowd lining both sides of Ocean Boulevard on either side of the street for several blocks in either direction.

"I'm not really surprised," Lady Liberty said.

Saturday's demonstrators were jubilant and defiant, holding signs saying "Stop

See **FUTURE** on Page A14

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

By Kristy Hutchings
KHUTCHINGS@SCNG.COM

Long Beach Unified School District celebrated the class of 2025 last week — sending off nearly 5,000 graduates onto the next chapter of their lives.

Jordan High kicked off the festivities on June 10 at Long Beach City College's Veterans Stadium, with the rest of the city's "big

six" high schools — Millikan, Lakewood, Wilson, Poly and Cabrillo — following suit throughout the rest of the week.

This year's celebrations were as jubilant as ever. But they were also marked by uncertainty and fear because of the recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in Los Angeles County, including in Long Beach.

"To our graduates, you are proof that cour-

age lives louder than fear and that dreams cannot be deported," Jordan principal Keisha Irving-Holder said during that school's graduation ceremony. "So with that strength in our hearts, with pride in who we are and with love for everyone gathered here, let's begin this ceremony and celebrate the class of 2025."

See inside for photos from last week's graduation ceremonies, **Pages A10-13**.



Free Day of Harbor Tours July 12

Celebrate 20 Years of Leading Green with the Port! More info: polb.com/porttours

20
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COMMUNITY EVENT



West African drum and dance ensemble Dembrebrah performs at the Juneteenth celebration on Saturday at Rainbow Lagoon Park. Black Americans have celebrated Juneteenth for generations. PHOTOS BY HOWARD FRESHMAN



The Divas of Compton perform at the Juneteenth celebration on Saturday at Rainbow Lagoon Park in Long Beach. Organizers expected more than 15,000 people to attend.

Thousands attend 5th annual Juneteenth event

By Kristy Hutchings
KHUTCHINGS@SCNG.COM

Long Beach celebrated Juneteenth a few days earlier — and thousands of people joined in.

The city held its fifth annual Juneteenth celebration on Saturday at Rainbow Lagoon Park, with Lalah Hathaway, a five-time Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter, headlining a day filled with music, dance, food and cultural installations.

Juneteenth commemorates the date — June 19, 1865 — when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to the last enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas — more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.

Black Americans have celebrated Juneteenth for generations, but it became a federal holiday in 2021, with the signing of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act by President Joe Biden.

Long Beach's Juneteenth celebration began in 2021 — and has grown significantly since then. The inaugural event drew about 3,000 people. But ahead of this year's free gathering, organizers anticipated more than 15,000 visitors.



Dembrebrah performs at the Juneteenth celebration on Saturday at Rainbow Lagoon Park in Long Beach.

While Saturday's headliner was Hathaway — who has released eight albums since 1987, and has collaborated with musical artists such as Kendrick Lamar, Dr. Dre, Long Beach icon Snoop Dogg and Anderson. Paak — the celebration also included a set from DJ Battlecat, who helped pioneer the West Coast hip hop sound by producing artists such as Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg.

Celebrants also got to check out more than 100 Black-owned vendors and food trucks, art and cultural installations, community resource booths, and a kids' zone with games and activities.



Hundreds of celebrants turn out for Long Beach's annual Juneteenth festival on Saturday at Rainbow Lagoon Park.

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PINCH

From Page 2

She died peacefully much later, after a 22-year life.

More often than was probably prudent, I used the Pinch to express my opinion on issues of the day. It was important to note that the column was an appropriate place for an opinion — the news stories under my byline were just the facts, ma'am.

I got (still do) responses to those opinions too, and I liked that. Those dialogs were typically respectful, and often insightful.

Sadly, respectful dialog about ideas is a lot harder to find these days.

But the columns that seem to resonate the most still are the personal ones. I am

blessed with editors who allow me to talk about my family, my faith and my dogs. I love to talk about those dogs!

Adventures in DIY home improvement projects seem to hit a chord too. My failures are a bit more popular than my successes — I suspect others can relate.

All of this reminiscing might make it sound like I'm shutting A Pinch down, and nothing could be further from the truth. I love our weekly talks, and I treasure the opportunity to make you aware of some of the amazing charities and people working to make our Long Beach a better place to live.

As long as you continue to read, I'll continue to write. I need you, gentle reader, and I am thankful for you. Bless you, my friends.

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DOWNEY

Faith leaders decry ICE operation in city

By Kristy Hutchings
KHUTCHINGS@SCNG.COM

Faith leaders gathered at Downey Memorial Christian Church on June 11 to decry the detention of an unidentified man on their property earlier that day.

The man, described as a dark-skinned man with dark hair who only spoke Spanish, was taken into custody by law enforcement dressed in plain clothes who refused to identify themselves or produce a warrant for the man's arrest on June 11, according to church leaders.

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Paulina Alcala, a Downey resident, was driving down Florence Avenue near Downey Memorial Christian Church when she saw several law enforcement agents surround the unidentified man, who was sitting on a bench outside a business adjacent to the church.

Unsure about whether the officers were local police or ICE agents, Alcala flipped her car around and went to see if she could assist the man.

"Once I heard that they were asking for papers, I was like, oh — this is ICE," Alcala said Wednesday. "(An agent) called me an illegal and said that I was going to get arrested for getting in the way — I told them that I am a USA citizen fighting for what is going on right now. The only thing I said to them was he's just sitting under a tree and he's not doing anything. The moment (I said that), they got him up (and) dragged him away."

Soon, a group of about 10 community members, including multiple leaders from the Downey Memorial Christian Church, joined Alcala in the parking lot to confront the agents. Several witnesses at the scene, including the church's senior pastor, Tanya Lopez, said there were three unmarked vehicles and about five law enforcement officers in the church parking lot to arrest one man.

"They were wearing regular clothing — one of them was wearing Vans like the ones I'm wearing today. They had a badge across their vest that said police," Lopez said. "I said where's your badge number and tell me your name — and why are you wearing a mask? Police officers don't have to hide their identity."

Lopez recorded the incident, and repeatedly asked the officers to identify themselves, produce a warrant for the man's arrest, and to stop conducting a raid on the church's private property, she said. Lopez also tried to step closer to the vehicle the officers had detained the man in to try to get his name and age, and to advise him not to sign any papers.

"They did point their rifle at me — and they said, 'You need to get back,'" Lopez said. "I did decide to finally step back, because unfortunately, since they had no warrants, they chose to not show any documentation, I (could not) be sure that they wouldn't choose to fire whatever kind of weapon they have."

The entire incident — from Alcala sighting the officers surrounding the man to them detaining him in the vehicle and leaving — lasted only around three minutes in total, Alcala said.

"They kept asking us to step back, and telling us that we couldn't be there. Some words were exchanged, and this will stand in my



Reverend Al Lopez of Downey Memorial Christian Church speaks about the raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel today in the parking lot of the church on June 11. PHOTOS BY KEITH BIRMINGHAM — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Interfaith pastors, reverends and friends of the church listen as Senior Pastor Tanya Lopez of Downey Memorial Christian Church speaks about the raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



Rev. Richie Sanchez of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ speaks about the raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel June 11 at Downey Memorial Christian Church.

mind," said Rev. Al Lopez. "When we said we don't want this in our property, a gentleman just shouted, 'The whole country is a property.' When someone tells that to you with a weapon in their hands — that was a very clear message."

The June 11 incident at Downey Memorial Christian Church is just one of many similar federal immigration operations being reported across Los Angeles County as the Trump administration continues to ramp up its mass deportation agenda.

While critics have called the administration's decision to federalize the National Guard and deploy 700 U.S. Marines to Los Angeles following several days of protests in Downtown Los Angeles in response to ICE's increased presence in the region immoral and illegal — with the state suing the federal government over the decisions earlier this week — the White House has steadfastly stuck to its guns, arguing that the crackdown is necessary to secure the

country's borders.

The Trump's administration has promised to round up some 3,000 immigrants a day and deport 1 million a year. Republicans have been relentless in their attacks on Democrats, portraying the protests in Los Angeles — which have been largely confined to a small area downtown — in highly charged terms as "riots," in a preview of campaign ads to come.

At a private meeting of House Republicans this week with White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, Rep. Richard Hudson, the chairman of the GOP's campaign arm, framed the situation as Democrats supporting rioting and chaos while Republicans stand for law and order.

"Violent insurrectionists turned areas of Los Angeles into lawless hellscapes over the weekend," Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., wrote earlier this week in the Wall Street Journal, suggesting it may be time to send in military troops.

"The American people elected Donald

Trump and a Republican Congress to secure our border and deport violent illegal aliens," he wrote.

"That's exactly what the president is doing."

Ron Gochez, with Union del Barrio, said during the press conference that his organization had confirmed at least 20 ICE operations throughout L.A. County — on June 11 alone.

"There have been coordinated attacks against our community throughout the Los Angeles area today," Gochez said. "And so today, as we do our part to try to defend the community from these ICE raids that are separating families, we remind you that the vast majority of people who are being kidnapped on the streets of the city are working class people who do not have criminal records. We want to put that out there clearly."

Associated Press reporter Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

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OBITUARY

Shadden, longtime Long Beach yachtsman, dies

By Jo Murray
JO@JOVENTURE.COM

Tom Shadden, a well-known Long Beach yachtsman who cofounded the Aquatic Capital of America Foundation and also helped establish the United States Sailing Center in the city, has died. He was 90.

The cause of death was cardiac arrest related to cancer and other complications, said his son, John Shadden.

Shadden, who died at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach late last month, was a senior vice president at Morgan Stanley, but his passion was helping his community — particularly when it came to the water. The longtime Long Beach resident spent years working to fulfill his vision for Long Beach as the Aquatic Capital of America, a well-deserved title considering the city has produced more aquatic Olympians, world record holders and national champions than any other in the country.

"I enjoyed my discussions with Tom over the past 10 years," said Lucy Johnson, a founding board member of the Aquatic Capital of America Foundation, "and will miss his wisdom and foresight."

Thomas Everett Shadden was born Nov. 26, 1934, in Los Angeles. His father died during World War II, so he was raised by a single mother.

Shadden attended a military school during his youth and then went to Cal State Long Beach. While at CSULB, he was also the founding president of Phi Sigma Epsilon, a chapter of the National Sales and Marketing Fraternity; and president of the Society for the Advancement of Management.

After graduating from CSULB with a business administration degree, Shadden attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania to study the investment industry.

He then joined the U.S. Army, for which he was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany.

After getting out of the Army, Shadden embarked on his career — eventually making his way to Long Beach.

Early in his career, in the 1960s, he hosted investment presentations at the Masonic Temple in Compton and over the years, he continued to build his financial advisory practice. He retired as senior vice president of Morgan Stanley — a firm that is consistently ranked one of the top 150 private wealth management teams in the country — after 42 years.

But Shadden was also invested in his community.

He served on philanthropic boards in Long Beach, including a long affiliation with MemorialCare Long Beach Medical Center



Long Beach yachtsman Tom Shadden, shown here in an undated photo, died on May 31. He was 90. COURTESY OF THE LONG BEACH YACHT CLUB

and its nonprofit foundation, for which he served as director and was a past president.

Shadden was also the director of the Long Beach Medical Center's Heart and Vascular Institute and a board governor for the Sea Festival of Long Beach.

And then there was his passion for aquatics — particularly sailing.

That passion was sparked in his youth, when an uncle took him sailing — and he was hooked. His family also spent most summers in Hermosa Beach, where he excelled at swimming, body surfing and surfing.

He joined the Long Beach Yacht Club in 1968. Seven years later, in 1975, Shadden served as chair of the Congressional Cup, the granddaddy of match racing. He was the LBYC commodore in 1980 and received the LBYC's prestigious Richard Loynes Trophy — essentially a yachtsman of the year award — twice.

"Tom Shadden was an incredible man," said Scott Dixon, LBYC's 2024 staff commodore and a board member for the Aquatic Capital of America Foundation. "He truly cared about our community, the people who live here and the children that would be the future of Long Beach. He was always willing to share his rich history here in Long Beach and how to make it a better place where locals love to say they live and visitors love to visit."

In 1975, Shadden and David Crockett Sr. reinvented the California International Sailing Association — which formed four years earlier to fund a California entry in the 1974 America's Cup — to support amateur sailors by providing travel grants for regional, national and international competitions, and by funding local sailing programs and racing clinics. In 1978, Shadden and Crockett established the CISA Advanced Racing Clinic — which has built a legacy as the premier youth training event in the country.

Shadden's love of water sports is also what led him to try to bolster Long Beach as the Aquatic Capital of America.

He and a group of his friends spent two years researching and proved what many of us had long believed: Long Beach had produced more Olympians, world record holders and national champions in virtually all aquatic sports than any other city in the country.

His vision was for the city to acknowledge this and use "Aquatic Capital of America" as a designation for Long Beach and the Convention and Visitors Bureau in marketing materials promoting the beach town as both a tourist destination and a location for the various aquatic sports organizations hosting major competitions, according to Johnson.

A formal request for that designation went



Tom Shadden, right, is shown accepting the Long Beach Century Club Keith Cordes Award during the club's

before the City Council in 2008. The City Council OK'd referring to Long Beach as the Aquatic Capital of America.

Later that year, Shadden founded and became president of the Aquatic Capital of America Foundation, a nonprofit that started funding free swim lessons for underserved youth through a local YMCA. That program is called "Waterproof Our Youth."

But Shadden didn't stop there.

Shadden, along with Chuck Korber, founded the United States Sailing Center in Long Beach; that facility is a training site to help sailors fulfill their Olympic dreams. Over the years, Shadden, along with the Long Beach nonprofit Pacific Coast Sailing Foundation, has helped the waterfront venue evolve into a true center of training for sailors of every ability and from all parts of our community.

"I am blessed to have worked with Tom on projects in our community with the Long Beach Yacht Club and the Aquatic Capital of America," Dixon said.

"I am grateful for his friendship and for teaching me to put others first in everything you do."

Shadden, who died on May 31, is survived son John Shadden, daughter Laura Shadden, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Shadden was preceded in death by his wife, Sandie, and his son William, who died on the same day in 1993.

His family will hold services in August — the month the Shadden clan traditionally spends together.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the US Sailing Center, the Long Beach Sailing Foundation or Aquatic Capital of America's swim program.

PUBLIC WORKS

Studebaker Corridor Complete Street Project gets underway

By Christina Merino
CMERINO@SCNG.COM

The City Council last week approved a contractor for the highly anticipated Studebaker Corridor Complete Street Project — a step that will finally get the East Long Beach project underway.

The more than \$44.6 million contract will go to All American Asphalt after the council unanimously approved the company to undertake the project during this week's meeting.

The project will implement a series of complete street improvements along the 5.1-mile length of Studebaker Road from Second Street to Carson Street/Los Coyotes Diagonal, as well as along the 0.8-mile stretch of Loynes Drive from Pacific Coast Highway to Studebaker Road.

Studebaker Road is a regionally significant north-south arterial corridor, with high volumes of through traffic and local traffic from surrounding neighborhoods, according to the staff report.

The improvements are necessary to enhance overall safety, mobility, and accessibility for residents and visitors who travel along the corridor, officials said. It is also one of the city's major corridor projects, part of its Measure A and Elevate '28 plans.

"This is a big deal. We're finally moving forward on the Studebaker Corridor Project," Mayor Rex Richardson said during the June 10 council meeting. "I know how big this is, and to finally be in a position to move forward,



A parent raises an arm as he and his child cross the street at Studebaker Road, leaving Cubberley K-8, where there is no crossing guard. FILE PHOTO BY BRITTANY MURRAY

this is one of the biggest projects of Elevate '28, and a lot of communities and neighborhoods connect to this project. To me, this is just like the Artesia Boulevard project that we just celebrated but north-south in the East Long Beach community."

The project has been a long time coming. The City Council adopted a resolution in 2007 that authorized the city to enter into funding agreements required by Caltrans to receive state and federal money for the project, according to the staff report.

The Studebaker Complete Corridor Project will deliver multi-modal improvements, including separated bikeways, ADA-compliant paths of travel, upgraded traffic signals, protected intersections, fiber-optic commu-

nication, street beautification and landscaping, and pavement repair and resurfacing.

"This will be the longest corridor that we've taken on; it's over five miles," said Public Works Director Eric Lopez, "and we'll be able to address a lot of the issues that we have there."

The project includes modifying the geometry of the existing vehicular traffic lanes, including installing new landscaped medians, which will help with installing a bidirectional bike/pedestrian trail, which will be separated from the street, at the southern portion of the project and protected bike lanes throughout the remainder of the corridor without reducing the number of traffic lanes in each direction, according to the staff report.

The new center medians will be constructed with new landscaping, hard-scaping and irrigation systems to improve the overall aesthetics of the corridor.

Signalized intersections will be modified as protected intersections that will provide additional safety by separating cyclists and pedestrians from motor vehicles, as well as shortening the crossing distance for pedestrians, according to the staff report. The protected intersections will also improve signal timing by shortening pedestrian crossing distances and reducing signal cycle lengths.

Transit facilities within the corridor will also be upgraded. Transit improvements will occur at most Long Beach Transit intersection stops, which will include new boarding islands at 29 locations and new bus shelters

and/or benches at most of those locations.

The project will install new fiber-optic communication facilities throughout the corridor to connect the east side of Long Beach's facilities to the city's existing network, according to the staff report.

One of the most significant changes in the Studebaker Corridor Project is the reconfigured T-intersection concept at Los Coyotes Diagonal, which will create safer paths for cyclists and pedestrians and improve traffic at the intersection.

"This is a really busy intersection, so as we were working through the design, we did land on the T-intersection design," Lopez said. "It's actually a design that's been recommended more by Caltrans and other transportation agencies, which will help us better improve the flow of people and cars, especially near the school there."

Funding for the project is coming from 13 different sources, Lopez said.

"This has been a long time coming," said Fifth District Councilmember Megan Kerr. "The braiding of 13 different funding sources has made this a complex and necessary project that folks in our districts ask us on a regular basis. We're excited to have a contract to award, and we know that it adds to the project work of major corridors across this city."

Construction for the Studebaker Corridor Complete Street Project is anticipated to begin this summer, Lopez said and should be completed by fall 2027, barring inclement weather or other unforeseen delays.

GRADUATION

Cabrillo High School



A student celebrates during the 2025 Cabrillo High School Graduation at Cabrillo High in Long Beach on June 12. **PHOTOS BY LIBBY CLINE-BIRMINGHAM**



ASB President Frank Osbourne-Russell speaks to his classmates during the 2025 Cabrillo High School Graduation.



A student waves to his family during the 2025 Cabrillo High School Graduation at Cabrillo High in Long Beach.



A student wears a decorated mortarboard during the 2025 Cabrillo High School Graduation at Cabrillo High.



A graduate celebrates after receiving her diploma during the 2025 Cabrillo High School Graduation.



Senior speaker Kimia Khalili speaks to her classmates during the 2025 Cabrillo High School Graduation at Cabrillo High in Long Beach.



A graduate cheers after receiving his diploma during the 2025 Cabrillo High School Graduation at Cabrillo High.



A student wears a decorated mortarboard during the 2025 Cabrillo High Graduation.

A woman with short, light-colored hair is smiling warmly at a small, light-colored dog she is holding. Another woman, also smiling, is visible in the background, leaning towards the dog. The scene is set outdoors with a blurred background of trees and a building.

GRADUATION

Jordan High School



Graduating seniors make their entrance to "Pomp and Circumstance" on June 10 at Jordan High School's commencement at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Long Beach. **PHOTOS BY HOWARD FRESHMAN**



Daniel Gutierrez who will be attending Long Beach City College next year forgoes the traditional cap at commencement.



Graduating seniors make their entrance to "Pomp and Circumstance" on June 10.



Principal Keisha Irving-Holder, left, takes a congratulatory photograph with a graduate.



A graduate unfurls a Mexican flag after receiving his diploma on June 10.



Graduating seniors make their entrance to "Pomp and Circumstance" on June 10.



Graduating seniors get giddy for a selfie on June 10.



The Jordan Chamber and Senior Singers perform.

GRADUATION

Millikan High School



Principal Stacie Alexander stands with school Hall of Famers Samantha Salazar and Chukwuoma Uchegbulam.



Millikan seniors throw their caps as they finish their graduation ceremony in Long Beach on June 11. **PHOTOS BY TRACEY ROMAN**



Millikan senior Leila Wiggins waves to the crowd as she makes her way round the field at her graduation ceremony in Long Beach.



Millikan senior Echo Koons performs with her vocal group as the Rams seniors graduate.



Millikan seniors pose for their phone selfies after receiving their diplomas.



Millikan senior Izabella Villalobos addresses the crowd as their graduation ceremony June 11.

GRADUATION

Lakewood High School



Long Beach's Lakewood High celebrates its 2025 graduation on June 11. PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE E'AMATO



A proud young man faces the crowd after receiving his diploma.



Graduates return to their seats and wave at the crowd after receiving their diplomas.



A big smile comes from a new graduate.



One graduate walks down toward the seats after receiving their diploma.

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PORTS OF L.A., LONG BEACH

National Retail Federation sees temporary rebound

By Donna Littlejohn
DLITTLEJOHN@SCNG.COM

While tariffs have put a damper on what had been an ongoing cargo surge at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, prospects could now be brightening temporarily with a rebound this summer, according to some projections.

The National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates said last week that import cargo at the nation's major container ports can expect to see a rebound through summer with retailers taking advantage of a 90-day reduction in tariffs that were recently imposed on China. The projections are based on the Global Port Tracker report released on June 9 by the National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates.

Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero said last week that he is now "cautiously optimistic" about prospects that "import cargo will rebound at the end of June and into July just in time for the peak shipping season, when retailers stock the shelves with back-to-school supplies and begin preparations for the winter holidays."

But through May, both the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach were seeing canceled sailings.

"Peak season starts in July," Cordero said on May 2, referring to the time when shippers begin sending over fall goods for stores. That is the time, he said then, when they begin looking to order those goods.

"But they're not doing it," Cordero added a month ago, "and the more we delay, the increased chance there will be that we won't



Containers are carried and positioned by automated stacking cranes on Jan. 26, 2023, at Long Beach Container Terminal at the Port of Long Beach. PHOTO BY HOWARD FRESHMAN

have those products on the store shelves."

But last week, Cordero acknowledged the fluidity of the changes in trade policy.

"We will continue to monitor the dynamic changes in trade policy and how they will impact major milestones," he said, "such as the July 8 expiration of the 90-day pause on the across-the-board reciprocal tariffs, except for China."

Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka was traveling last week and was unavailable for comment.

But Jonathan Gold, the National Retail Federation's vice president for supply chain and customs policy, expressed optimism about the months ahead.

"This is the busiest time of the year for retailers as they enter the back-to-school season and prepare for the fall-winter holiday day season," he said in a statement this week.

"Retailers had paused their purchases and imports previously because of the significantly high tariffs," he added. "They are now looking to get those orders and cargo moving

in order to bring as much merchandise into the country as they can before the reciprocal tariff and additional China tariff pauses end in July and August."

The goal for retailers, Gold said, is for consumers to find the products they need at affordable prices.

But there remains uncertainty, he said, about what happens after those pauses end.

"We strongly encourage the administration to continue negotiating agreements with our trading partners," Gold said, "in order to restore predictability and stability to the supply chain."

Among those who have felt the squeeze are dockworkers who have seen work hours and shifts dropping. While Seroka said in May that he does not anticipate mass layoffs, the pain is being felt with fewer shifts.

Many retailers, Gold said, suspended or canceled orders after the Trump administration announced a 145% tariff on China in April but have resumed imports after tariffs were reduced to 30% and a 90-day pause that will last until Aug. 12 was announced. The higher reciprocal tariffs on other nations have also been paused until July 9 as the administration negotiates with those countries.

"Our projections," said Hackett Associates founder Ben Hackett, "show that May saw a significant reduction in imports as shippers responded to the higher tariff environment."

Importers, he said, are expected to take advantage of tariff reductions in June through August, but if higher tariffs are not delayed again the final four months of the year, the ports can expect to see declining import volumes.

ENVIRONMENT

From Page 14

community, and we're excited to see more businesses stepping up and making sustainability a core part of how they operate."

In 2024, California green businesses

reduced 37,986 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, reduced or diverted 18,431 tons of waste, and conserved 106 million gallons of water, according to a press release.

The program also supports the goals of Long Beach's Climate Action Plan to minimize greenhouse gas emissions for residents and businesses, foster economic opportuni-

ties and realize a vision of Long Beach where everyone can live in thriving communities built on sustainability and resilience, officials said.

Long Beach's new and recertified green businesses were recognized at the June 3 City Council meeting for their efforts to create a healthier, more sustainable city.

"We're proud to recognize these outstanding businesses for their leadership in sustainability and commitment to our shared environmental values," Mayor Rex Richardson said in a statement. "This program reflects our city's dedication to building a cleaner, healthier future, and these businesses are helping lead the way."

ADVERTORIAL

Neuropathy Breakthrough

"My feet feel like they're on fire."
"Each step feels like I'm walking through wet paint."
"I can't sleep because my hands and feet tingle all night."
"I live in constant fear that I'll fall."

What do all of these people have in common? They each suffer from Peripheral Neuropathy (PN). It is estimated that more than 20 million people in the United States have PN. Unfortunately, this figure may be significantly higher as the disease is often misdiagnosed due to its wide array of symptoms.

Dr. Thieny Hoang of Thien Lake Acupuncture in Long Beach shares the belief that PN is more common than even the worst estimate. "I've been treating neuropathy, in all its various forms, for over a decade, and so often my patients come to me because of the symptoms, not because of a diagnosis. They see one of my television specials, or read the testimonial of another patient, and say to themselves, 'Hey, I feel the same thing.'"

Frankie M. of Seal Beach testified to this: "I remember my husband driving me to my consultation and I saw a woman running just outside our neighborhood. I was so envious - I just kept thinking 'I would give anything just to walk again.' My primary care doctor told me my troubles with pain and balance were just symptoms of old age and gave me a prescription. I was depressed."

Fortunately Frankie would eventually see Dr. Thieny on the local news talking about similar symptoms and how she offers a real solution at Thien Lake Acupuncture. "I just knew I had to see her. She was my last hope."

"Almost all of our patients come to us with a story similar to Frankie's. They've been everywhere else. They've been told there's no hope. They've been told it's 'just part of getting older,'" shares Devi, a Receptionist at Thien Lake Acupuncture. "It just breaks my heart, but I know how much we can help people like Frankie, so I'm always so happy when they walk through our door."

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves, often caused by (and always compounded by) a lack of blood flow in the hands and feet. This lack of blood flow results in a lack of nutrients, and the nerves begin to degenerate and die. This causes pain and other sensations ranging from uncomfortable to debilitating. Because neuropathy is a degenerative condition, once those nerves begin to deteriorate they will continue to do so until they are completely expired, leaving those suffering with crippling balance issues. "In this case, the absence of pain is not necessarily a good thing," shares Dr. Hoang. "This usually indicates that your nerves are hanging on by a fragile thread."

Those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy often face a very grim reality: Western medicine declares that there is no solution, while alternative therapies offer little to no results. Dr. Hoang and the staff at TLA have a track record that proves that they are different, and they pride themselves on being "the last resort with the best results."

So exactly how is Dr. Hoang able to reverse the effects of this degenerative disease? Through a unique blend of one of the most time-tested therapies and the most cutting-edge. "Acupuncture has been used to increase blood flow for thousands of years, and it helps get the necessary nutrients

to the affected nerves. But the real magic happens when I integrate ATP Resonance BioTherapy®. This is a technology that was originally developed by NASA to expedite healing and recovery."

"I just can't say enough about TLA," Frankie shares through tears of joy. "My husband and I moved here 3 years ago and he's gone to the beach almost everyday. I always stayed home because of the pain and discomfort. But yesterday, I walked on the beach with him! And next week we're starting shag dancing lessons. I am truly living life these days."

"According to Frankie's test results, she has seen a 74% improvement in pain and functionality, which is on par with a majority of our patients," shares Devi. "But more important than those test results is the joy she's expressed in being here, and getting to hear about all the amazing things she's able to do because she feels great!"

By seamlessly blending the ancient science of acupuncture with modern medical solutions, Dr. Hoang has achieved a 90%

success rate in reversing the effects of neuropathy. She starts each patient with an initial consultation during which a sensory exam is performed. "This not only aids in making a proper diagnosis, but it helps to define just how much nerve damage has occurred," explains the doctor. "This is important because if a patient has suffered more than 95% damage, there is little that I can do to help them. I'm familiar with the medical miracle but I know my limits as a practitioner and the limits of my medicine."

When it comes to treating Peripheral Neuropathy, regardless of its origin, early detection greatly improves your chances of a full recovery.

If you or someone you love are suffering with chronic pain that presents as burning, tingling or 'pins and needles,' or you've recently been diagnosed with Peripheral Neuropathy (PN), it's important to know that there are options. There is hope. Call (562) 362-6580 to schedule an initial consultation or visit ThienLake.com to read more incredible success stories.





HUNDREDS OF PROTESTERS RALLY AGAINST ICE

By John Donegan

More than 500 demonstrators gathered in downtown Tuesday to decry recent federal immigration raids and demand the Long Beach City Council allocate millions of dollars more to a municipal fund that provides legal aid for those facing deportation.

Protesters began assembling at Harvey Milk Promenade Park around 3 p.m. before marching the half-mile route to the Long Beach Civic Center, where a 5 p.m. rally was scheduled to push the City Council to bolster its current sanctuary laws, which already bar most forms of cooperation with federal immigration officials.

Many rallygoers left as evening fell, but a smaller group of about 250 stayed beyond, blocking lanes as they marched on Ocean Boulevard. Eventually, they occupied the street in front of the Civic Center. Police formed a skirmish line and declared the assembly unlawful around 8 p.m.

Officers on a loudspeaker repeatedly asked people to leave the street and warned they would use chemical irritants and rubber bullets. Demonstrators continued to chant "peaceful protest" and "ICE out of Long Beach."

When the group began marching eastbound on Ocean Boulevard again, police fell back and let them



Photo by Thomas R. Cordova

keep moving. The crowd gathered in nearby Lincoln Park but soon dispersed as officers kept their distance.

Tuesday's protest is one of several around the country since immigration raids began in the Los Angeles region Friday. In California over the past week, demonstrators also gathered in downtown Los Angeles, San Francisco and Santa Ana.

It comes after five days of protests that have sprung up across the Los Angeles region over immigration enforcement raids that prompted President Donald Trump to deploy National Guard troops and Marines. While many were peaceful, some have resulted in clashes with law enforcement as officers made arrests and used chemical irritants to disperse crowds.

Outside of downtown Los Angeles, raids across the region have targeted numerous communities, including recently in Huntington Park. A staging area in the mostly Latino city of Paramount also became a flashpoint Saturday between demonstrators and federal agents. Federal personnel have also been reported in Long Beach but confirmed details about where they were stationed and what they were doing are sparse.

Editor Note: An in-depth version of this article was published online on June 10 by the Long Beach Post, a non-profit news organization. Contribute to seeing more stories like this at www.lbpost.com.

MEALS ON WHEELS LAUNCHES VETERAN-FOCUSED CAMPAIGN

By Daniel Pineda

Local non-profit organization Meals on Wheels of Long Beach (MOWLB) announced their newest campaign, that focuses on providing home-delivered meals to the city's military veterans.

The non-profit was first founded in England during World War II (WWII), with the purpose of delivering meals to individuals at home who are unable to purchase or prepare their own meals. Meals on Wheels would eventually arrive to the United States, starting in Philadelphia in 1954 and has since spread throughout major cities across the country. In 1971,

MOWLB officially opened for business in the Downtown Long Beach Area, where it now serves over 600 clients.

The announcement of the "Save a Veteran (End the Wait)" campaign was made on Friday, June 6, by the organization's Development Director Walter Mohajer.

According to Mohajer, the development for a meal-delivery campaign focusing on servicing Long Beach's veterans has been in development by MOWLB since August of last year; and it was created with the intention of ensuring Long Beach's veterans receive a proper meal, without having to be

on a waitlist.

"We're not just delivering; we're also about having a strong emphasis on interpersonal connections and relationships with clients," said Mohajer. "As of now, we have about 40 veterans waiting on our program's list to just receive the basic things like such as the meal. And through this new campaign, we're making sure these veterans are getting off the wait list and receiving their home-delivered meals."

Another aspect to the campaign, according to Mohajer, is highlighting the veterans who have proudly

Continued on page 5

Recorded Milestones of Funk and Soul Originator Sly Stone

By Steve Prokes

Soul and funk superstar Sly Stone passed away on June 9 of a "prolonged battle with COPD and other underlying health issues," according to a statement by his family.

Sylvester Stewart was born in Denton, Texas on March 15, 1943. After Stewart had relocated to the Bay Area, in 1961, record producer George Motola recorded Stewart as lead singer with the Viscaynes on "Yellow Moon," backed with "Heavenly Angel" in San Jose, who came to the attention of Motola through Vito "Vic" Gazz, who told him, "I got this singer. I think he's great, why don't you come up to San Jose to record him?"

"I wasn't happy with the track I done in San Jose, so I turned around, cut it at Modern in Cul-

ver City over again. H.B. Barnum wrote the other side, 'Uncle Sam Needs You My Friend' or whatever it was," a song Barnum had just recorded with the Viceroy. Five years later, Sylvester Stewart became Sly Stone leader of Sly & the Family Stone. This Viscaynes debut record charted top 20 in Bay Area radio in October 1961.

"Yellow Moon" sold over 60 to 70,000 records in San Francisco and became bigger than the 4 Seasons in 'Frisco, they couldn't penetrate the record," said Motola. "They were #1, they couldn't penetrate Sylvester Stewart." The pressing as the Biscaynes was a misprint.

His first name change was to Danny (Sly) Stewart on the very rare and sought-after 45, "A Long Time Alone" recorded for Motola on the Luke label in November

1961. It charted not.

While as a disc jockey on San Francisco's leading soul radio station, KSOL, Sly Stewart recorded a series of dance records, "I Just Learned How To Swim" in August 1964 and a Sly, "Buttermilk" and "Temptation Walk" on the Autumn label in November 1965.

Los Angeles-based vocal group singers, Bobby Reif and Earl Nelson were Bob & Earl on the breakout hit, "Harlem Shuffle." It was a bi-coastal and national hit. "In 1963 we went to San Francisco to do 'Harlem Shuffle' and they had a band backing us up it," said Bob & Earl's Earl Nelson. "It was led by a disc jockey on the big San Francisco soul station. He hadn't done any major recording yet. His name was Sly Stone. They brought us out with our horn

Continued on page 6

Downtown Continues Seeing Housing Growth, Which Breaks Expectations

By Jon LeSage

Long Beach has not lightened up on its commitment to developing the downtown. While housing projects are taking off in other parts of town, the downtown still leads the city's housing market.

According to a Downtown Construction Report, 78.6% of all new apartments built in Long Beach since 2020 are located downtown – up from 66.2% in the previous decade. That 12-point increase ranks Long Beach among the top U.S. cities for downtown-focused housing. That comes from RentCafe, a nationwide apartment search website and a part of Yardi Systems, a leading global provider of property management software headquartered in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Long Beach added 2,386 downtown apartments between 2020 and 2024. Converted buildings made up 7.8% of new downtown apartments, according to the report.

As of November 2023, properties built since 2000 were already 93% full. The highest rental rates have been in the \$1,001 to \$1,500 per month and \$1,500 to \$2,000 per month, according to Apartments.com based on data collected by CoStar Group researchers.

"Long Beach is one of the most downtown-oriented cities in California this decade when it comes to apartment construction. In fact, its growth pattern is more comparable to that of San Francisco and Oakland – though smaller in scale – due to its concentrated pace of development. Nearly four out of five new apartments have been built in the downtown area, surpassing all other cities in the state except San Jose," says Alexandra Both, real estate writer and research analyst who authored the Downtown Construction Report.

"This trend is driven by a combination of factors, including revitalization policies like the 2012 Downtown Plan, which enabled greater residential density, as well as land availability and strong demand for urban living. Choosing to live in Long Beach's urban core offers waterfront access, walkability and proximity to major employment centers such as Los Angeles and Orange County," Both says.

What's Happening Downtown

A year ago, Dallas-based firm JPI acquired a portion of the Mosaic DTLB property which goes

Continued on page 7

CA Bill Jabs at Musk's \$1 Million Voter Lottery

By Jose Cervantes

A bill aiming to criminalize election-related giveaways and lotteries in California, a direct response to Elon Musk's political action committee during the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election, has advanced through the state Senate.

Senate Bill 398, authored by Senator Thomas J. Umberg, seeks to close a perceived loophole in election law by making it a crime to offer prizes or lotteries to induce individuals to vote or register to vote.

Currently, federal law prohibits knowingly paying or offering money or other valuable consideration to a person intending to cause them to vote or register or where payment is contingent upon their voting or voter registration status.

However, federal law does not explicitly prohibit lotteries as registration incentives at the state level. SB 398 addresses this by explicitly criminalizing the offer of a chance to win a lottery or similar prize.

Continued on page 7

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2024-25 HIGH SCHOOL

Athletes of the Year

Inside

Track and field: Three Long Beach State athletes competed in the NCAA Championships. Page 2B



College baseball: Former Lakewood graduate Eyanson helps lead LSU to CWS. Page 4B

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ATHLETES

From Page 8

Year in 2024 and 2025, and will go on the play at UCLA in the fall.

SPRING SPORTS

BASEBALL: ANTHONY PACK, (MILLIKAN); RUDY CARLOS (WILSON)

His .490 on-base percentage led the way for the Rams, along with his 29 runs scored and 11 stolen bases. The University of Texas commit is also a coveted draft prospect who projects well at the next level.

He was named the Moore League Player of the Year in each of the last two seasons to close out his high school career.

As for Carlos, Wilson's power-hitting first baseman helped anchor an improved Bruins offense as they earned a share of the Moore League crown.

Carlos led the squad with a .424 batting average in his senior season, with an impressive .671 slugging percentage.

He led all Bruin batsmen with 36 hits, 14 doubles and 24 RBI, and provided solid defense over at first.

SOFTBALL: LAUREN CANTWELL (MILLIKAN); EMONI LAM SAM (POLY)

After waiting her turn behind some talented pitchers, Cantwell finally got her time to shine as Millikan's ace — and she did not disappoint.

The Moore League Pitcher of the Year was dominant against league rivals, holding them to a batting average below .100, and racking up 90 strikeouts in 51 innings pitched.

Overall, the Vanguard signee posted a 1.29 ERA on the season, with 157 Ks in 103 innings pitched, finishing the year with a 15-4 record. Cantwell had eight double-digit strikeout performances, with a season high 13 against Lakewood and Poly less than a week apart.

Lam Sam, for her part, was a big reason why the Poly Jackrabbits won the school's first CIF-SS softball championship.

The junior third baseman hit .511, with a .619 on-base percentage and a team-leading 1.710 OPS. She led an explosive Poly offense in hits (45), runs scored (47), RBI (50), walks (18) and home runs (11), while also playing solid defense at the hot corner.



Poly's Jill Wetteland won her second CIF-Southern Section individual title in the high jump earlier this year. PHOTO BY ART O'NEILL

Her best game of the year came against Saint Joseph, when she collected five hits, including three home runs, to go along with five RBI and four runs scored, in the Jackrabbits' victory.

GIRLS LACROSSE: EMERSON MAY (WILSON)

May has been a three-year captain in goal for the Bruins, earning first-team All-Moore League honors in each of those seasons.

As a junior this year, she earned Moore League Player of the Year honors while leading the Bruins to their second league title in a row.

May posted a save percentage above .750 as Wilson's last line of defense, and collected more than 120 saves during league play.

BOYS LACROSSE: ZETH GONZALES (POLY)

Gonzales was a reliable presence in goal for the Jackrabbits as they claimed a share of the Moore League title in 2025.

An All-Moore League first-team selection in each of the past three seasons, the senior was chosen as the Moore League Player of the Year in 2025 after anchoring a strong Jackrabbits' defense.

Thanks in large part to Gonzales' proficiency in front of goal, Poly recorded a pair of shutouts this season and 10 times held opponents to three goals or fewer.

GIRLS SWIMMING: KYLIE MONTIEL (MILLIKAN)

Montiel was a standout at the Moore League finals, winning a pair of individual races for the Rams while also leading the 200 medley relay to victory to start the meet.

Montiel swam a 58.37 to take gold in the 100 butterfly, and also finished first in the 100 backstroke with a time of 58.13.

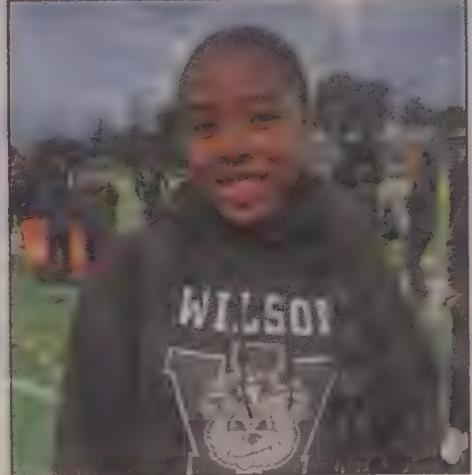
She then advanced to the CIF-SS Division 2 meet, where she finished fourth in the 100 backstroke and eighth in the 100 butterfly. The senior will swim for Biola University next season.

BOYS SWIMMING: LUCAS JUE (POLY)

The junior continued Poly's run of standout swimmers this year, and was the standout at the Moore League swim finals.

He led Poly's 200 medley relay to gold, then promptly set a new Moore League record with a time of 1:38.21 in the 200 freestyle.

Jue won his second individual gold in the 100 backstroke, swimming a 48.31 to break



Wilson's Kaylin Edwards is the Girls Track & Field Player of the Year. COURTESY PHOTO



Wilson's Bodie Barnes is this year's Boys Golfer of the Year. COURTESY PHOTO

the meet record in that race. The Louisville commit also showed well at CIF, earning silver in both the 200 IM (1:49.51) and the 500 freestyle (4:27.40) in Division 1.

Boys badminton: Brian Habacon, Cabrillo High

Habacon captured the Moore League singles title for the Cabrillo Jaguars this

See ATHLETES on Page B10

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ATHLETES

From Page 10

team that set a new school record at the finals.

Smith anchored Poly to a new school record in the 4x400 at the CIF State Track & Field Championships, and was also the Moore League champion in the 400 and placed second at CIF.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL: SIMRIN ADAMS/SADIE CALDERONE (WILSON)

Adams and Calderone were the city's best beach volleyball pair this year by a good margin — and the duo made it a spring to remember.

They led Wilson to a Moore League team title and claimed the pairs title in dominating fashion, winning 21-8, 21-11.

Then they led the Bruins to their first CIF-SS beach volleyball title, with a win over league foe Millikan in the championship match.

BOYS TENNIS: LEO BAUCH (WILSON)

Bauch wouldn't let anything keep him from the Moore League tennis singles title in his senior year — not even an injury.

Despite his back and legs tightening and cramping, Bauch battled against teammate Douglas Smith to win the league title 4-6, 6-3, 10-8.



Fiona Lobedecis of Long Beach Poly is shown here winning the CIF State Girls Diving Championships in Clovis. COURTESY PHOTO



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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Editor's note: Athletes of the Week is on hiatus for the summer. It will return when the fall sports season resumes later this year.

THE GRUNION'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"GEE BONANZA"

June 19, 2025 | By Myles Mellor | See Classifieds for Puzzle Solution.

ACROSS

1. "Beau ____" noble action
6. Certain meter reader
12. Firearm
15. Affix
17. Official language of Ethiopia
19. Newspaper column
21. Tint
22. Red hot chili pepper
23. 1991 Wimbledon champ Michael
24. Cracked up
26. CBS sitcom about physicists, with "The"
29. "____ old cowhand..."
31. Stealer of livestock
32. Orchestral instrument
36. The Beatles' ____ Pepper
37. Trucker's logging device, abbr.
40. Food catcher
41. Evergreens
42. Part of A.P.B.
44. Display props
46. Chemical-free
47. Not in the pink
48. Caesar's love
52. Islands with giant tortoises
55. Fruits
57. Lady of pop
58. Souvenir
60. Lounged
62. ____ Martin (car maker)
65. Most salty water body
69. Aquatic flora
70. Credit card enticements
72. "The 100 meters is ____ you don't want to miss"
74. Kind of acid
75. "____ Marner"
79. Present
83. "Faster! Faster!"

DOWN

1. "West Side Story" group
2. Place for pins
3. Bambi's father
4. Tartness
5. Book after Proverbs, abbr.
6. Fuel
7. One-celled sea protozoa
8. Altar
9. Helgenberger of "CSI"
10. Riyadh native
11. Ann in Russia
12. Barbarians
13. Presence
14. Kidman of 'Australia'
16. Part of a giggle
18. Chicanery
20. Projected
23. Receipts, sometimes
25. High-tech pic pro-
84. Remote, for example
86. Geese groups
88. Snobbish ones
89. Boeing body
90. Cuckoooint
94. Vegas opener
95. Health resort
97. Struck a match
98. ____ jure (by law)
99. Won't get blocked up
101. Big game
103. Sanitation fleet
108. Spanish painter from Paris, Paul
115. Deposit of loam
116. Lecture aids
118. Hole in the wall
119. Abbreviations for certain companies
120. "____ Pimpernel"
121. Inveigle
122. 70s rock group, abbr.
123. Customs
124. Assail

ducer

27. Barbecue cook

28. Mos. and mos.

30. Range part, abbr.

32. Sale clause, abbr.

33. Town

34. One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"

35. Israeli airline, 2 words

36. Allowances

38. Spy novelist, Deighton

39. Buddy, in hip-hop slang

40. Lux. neighbor

43. Bewitch

45. Coral, for one

47. Court grp., abbr.

48. Ardent

49. Maize dough

50. Curved molding

51. Wonderful, in the 80s

53. Educational certificate

54. Till bill

56. Beach area, 2 words

59. ____ meter (measures distance travelled)

61. Telethon donation

62. Pertaining to aircraft

63. Draft

64. Baja specialty

66. Fit of anger

67. Evening, to a poet

68. Skill

70. Carpet

71. Much advertising

73. Disputing

76. Next to Thailand

77. Difficulty

78. Certain NCO's

80. Tangelo

81. Show appreciation

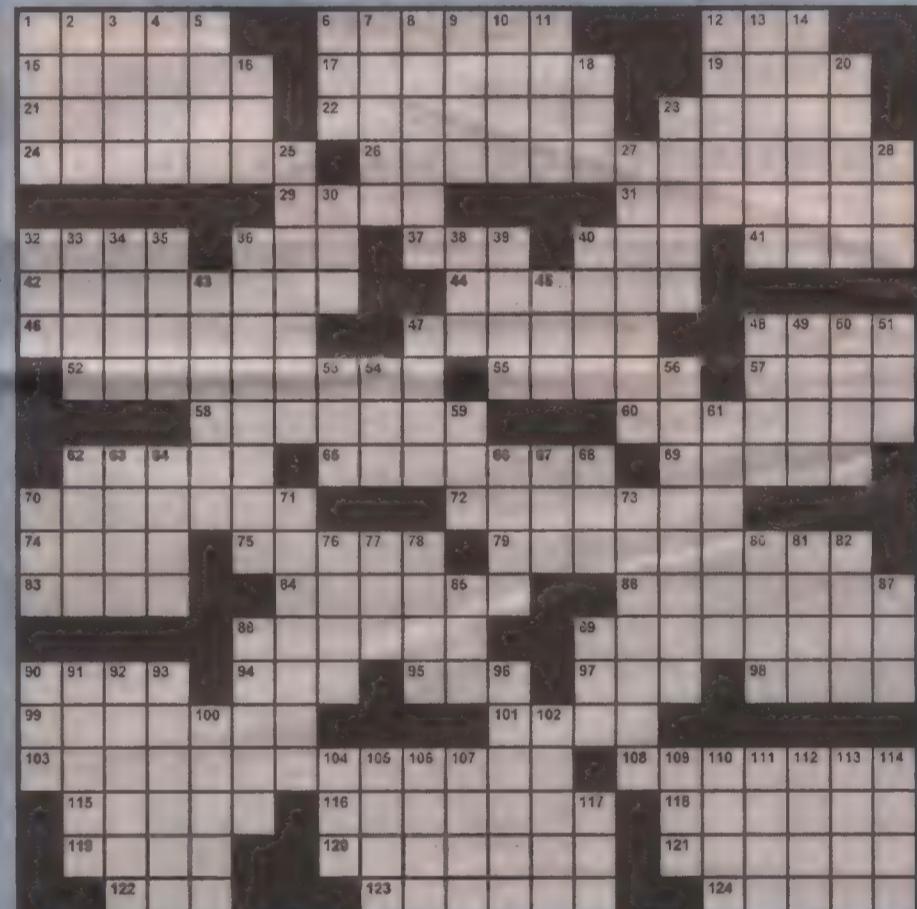
82. Hosp. brain tests

85. Clairvoyance, e.g.

87. Keyword improvements for a website (abbr.)

88. Treks (through)

89. Progressive insurance spokesperson



90. Director Lee

91. Explorer Amundsen

92. Strip

93. Ally of television

94. Acid neutralizer

95. Rodeo rope

96. Atoll

97. Nielsen tracks

ratings on them

105. Rolling in dough

106. Insurance company, abbr.

107. "____ Your Enthusiasm" (sitcom)

109. It may be worth 11 points

110. Big coffee containers

111. Stadium entrance

112. Building block

113. Ancient Andean

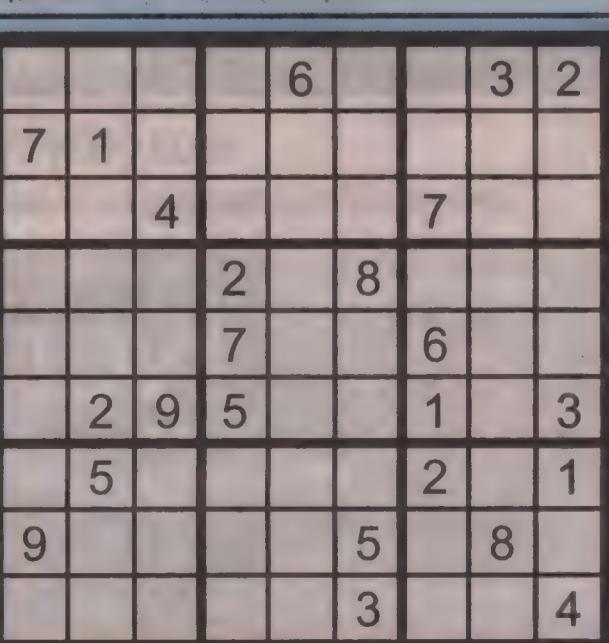
114. Kremlin refusal

117. A Cadillac model

THE GRUNION'S SUDOKU PUZZLE

By Myles Mellor

See Classifieds for Puzzle Solution



June 13, 2025

Downtown Continues Seeing Housing Growth

Continued from page 1

from Long Beach Boulevard, 4th Street, The Promenade North, to 5th Street. As part of a larger redevelopment application, the 1.58-acre site has been approved for the construction of 272 rental apartments. JPI last month began clearing for this mixed-use complex in downtown.

JPI intends to brand the new development as Jefferson Long Beach. In addition to housing, it will be the location for 16 affordable units and 19,000 square feet of ground-floor commercial space. The remainder of the property is slated for the construction of 628 residential units in a series of eight-story structures designed by MVE + Partners, according to a published report.

The former Union Bank building on Ocean Blvd. in downtown will be converted into a residential tower that will be a part of a 275-unit development that's been approved by the city's Planning Commission as of last September.

The approved plan would allow for a 15-story building converted into a mix of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. Located at 400 Oceangate, the build-

ing has been the headquarters for law firms and other businesses over the years.

Construction projects slowed down after COVID-19, but the city and its hotels and event centers have been witnessing gradual growth and visitor traffic.

LB More Downtown Focused Than Other Cities

The new report says that Long Beach is one of the most downtown-focused cities in California this decade, which is showing renewed urban core investment. The city is experiencing a decline in reuse activity, which may suggest there's been a shift toward new construction or challenges in adapting older buildings.

Long Beach is 33rd overall in downtown apartment development and conversions among the cities included in the study.

Since 2020, Long Beach has seen 2,386 downtown units. For the building projects in the city, 78.6% have been in the downtown — up from 66.2% over the previous decade. Reuse made up 7.8% of downtown units in the new report, down from 13.1% in the previous decade report covering the 2010s.



"Choosing to live in Long Beach's urban core offers waterfront access, walkability and proximity to major employment centers such as Los Angeles and Orange County," says Alexandra Both, real estate writer and research analyst who authored the Downtown Construction Report. Photo source: City of Long Beach.

Restoration of historic buildings continues in Long Beach, though there's more interest in living in new buildings by these renters, the study says. Experiencing a decline in reuse activity may suggest a shift toward new construction or challenges in adapting older buildings, according to the RentCafe report.

The Breakers Hotel in Long Beach, now known as the Fairmont Breakers Long Beach, has recently undergone a significant restoration and reopened in November 2024. It's an example of how these historic buildings can be beautifully restored. The thriving hotel has new tenants and a renewed focus on luxury and hospitality.

Jon LeSage is a resident of Long Beach and a veteran business media reporter and editor. You can reach him at jlesage1@yahoo.com.

ADVERTORIAL

CA Bill Jabs at Musk's \$1 Million Voter Lottery

Continued from page 1

The impetus for SB 398 stems from the controversy surrounding Elon Musk's "America PAC" activities during the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election. Musk, a vocal supporter of President Donald Trump, founded America PAC to aid Trump's campaign. In October 2024, the PAC initiated a highly publicized monetary giveaway campaign.

At rallies and through online promotions, Musk's America PAC pledged to award \$1 million daily to individuals who signed an online petition. The petition supported the First and Second Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

The offer was limited to registered voters in key swing states identified as critical to the presidential election, including Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona, Michigan,

Wisconsin, North Carolina and Nevada. Musk also promised \$100 to registered Pennsylvania voters who signed the petition and offered \$47 for petition signers who successfully referred voters from other swing states.

The PAC's stated purpose for the million-dollar recipients was for them to act as "spokespeople for the petition." America PAC had assumed a significant role in supporting Trump's proposition in these swing states.

The focus on free speech and gun rights, as advocated by the petition, resonated particularly with potential Trump voters, encouraging their registration and participation in the election.

However, these financial incentives quickly drew scrutiny from election law experts and public officials. Federal law explicitly prohibits

its compensation for voter registration or voting. Legal scholars were divided on whether Musk's scheme violated these statutes.

Richard Hasen, an election law scholar at UCLA, suggested that Musk "may well have crossed the line," likening the petition to past cases where offering free food for "I voted" stickers was considered an illegal inducement. David Becker from the Center for Election Innovation & Research agreed, stating that the law broadly covers "anything of value" in voting.

In contrast, former FEC chairman Bradley Smith argued that the petition was "too attenuated" from direct voter inducement to be illegal, especially since most recipients were registered voters.

The Department of Justice had issued a warning letter to Musk's PAC, indicating that the contest might violate federal law.

Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner filed a lawsuit to halt the giveaways in Pennsylvania, calling them an "illegal lottery scheme to influence voters" and "designed to actually influence a national election."

The lottery winners signed contracts to represent the PAC at political rallies and other promotions in which they would receive the grand prize of \$1 million.

Chris Young, the director and

treasurer of America PAC, testified on the selection process for the giveaway and stated that winners would need to be vetted to be considered for the prize based on whether the individual aligned with the core values of the PAC.

Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Angelo Foglietta initially paused Krasner's lawsuit to allow a federal court to consider the case. However, Judge Foglietta ultimately ruled that Musk's giveaway was not a lottery under Pennsylvania law, explaining that it failed to meet the three criteria for such a designation.

The controversy extended beyond Pennsylvania, with an Arizona woman filing a lawsuit against Musk in Texas, alleging fraud because participants were not informed that winners would be selected through a vetting process rather than randomly.

Over one million people from the seven target states registered for the sweepstakes by signing the petition. Despite the legal challenges, the contest concluded on Election Day with 18 winners.

SB 398 will move onto the Second Committee review and Second Chamber before it is enacted.

For any inquiries or further information, please contact Jose Cervantes at JoseC.Press@pm.me

How to Avoid Probate

The way in which you plan your estate may be the greatest gift you can give to your loved ones. A well planned estate avoids aggravations, expenses and delays, which may mar the fond memories that could have been preserved.



There are several terms that come to mind in estate planning such as "probate," "estate taxes" and "inheritance taxes."

The inheritance tax for California was eliminated in 1982. We, however, need to be concerned with probate and federal estate taxes.

Probate is a complex way of proving a will, if one exists, and transferring title. It requires publication of the will and expenses, which become public record. Because of the court system and statutory waiting periods, probate takes an extended period of time.

The best way to avoid probate is through a revocable living trust. It is referred to as a living trust because the trust is established during the person's lifetime. It is called revocable because it can be changed or revoked at any time by the person setting up the trust.

The property held in the trust passes without probate. By placing the property in a trust, there are no restraints on control or use of the property. Because the trust is revocable, an additional tax return does not need to be filed and property taxes will not be re-assessed.

We are happy to offer a complimentary consultation to Beachcomber readers. Please call (562) 923-0971 or email jsawday@tdlaw.com directly. Our Long Beach firm handles estate planning, probate, trust administration, conservatorships, guardianships, and contested trusts and estates matters in addition to other legal areas such as civil litigation, corporate, employment law, real estate, and family law matters.

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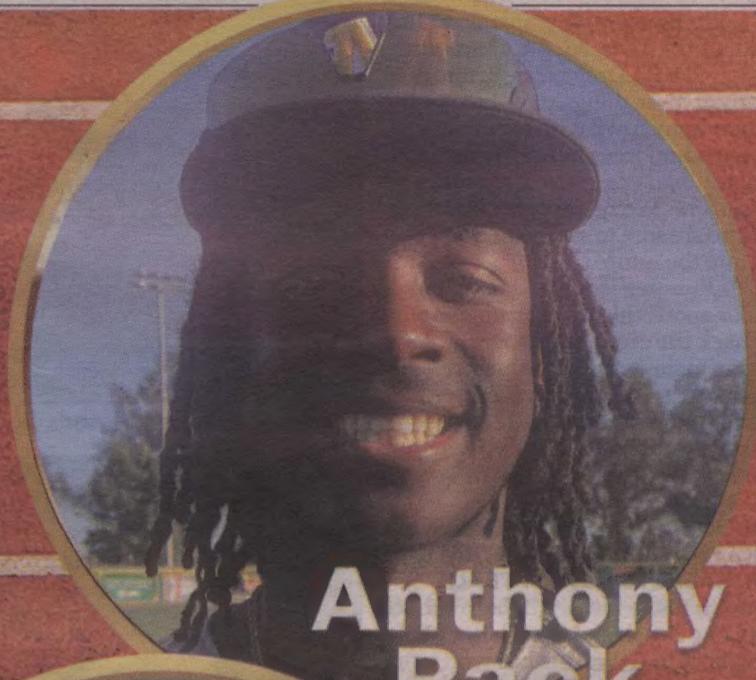
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2024-25 HIGH SCHOOL

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Pack**



**Aaya
McLyn**



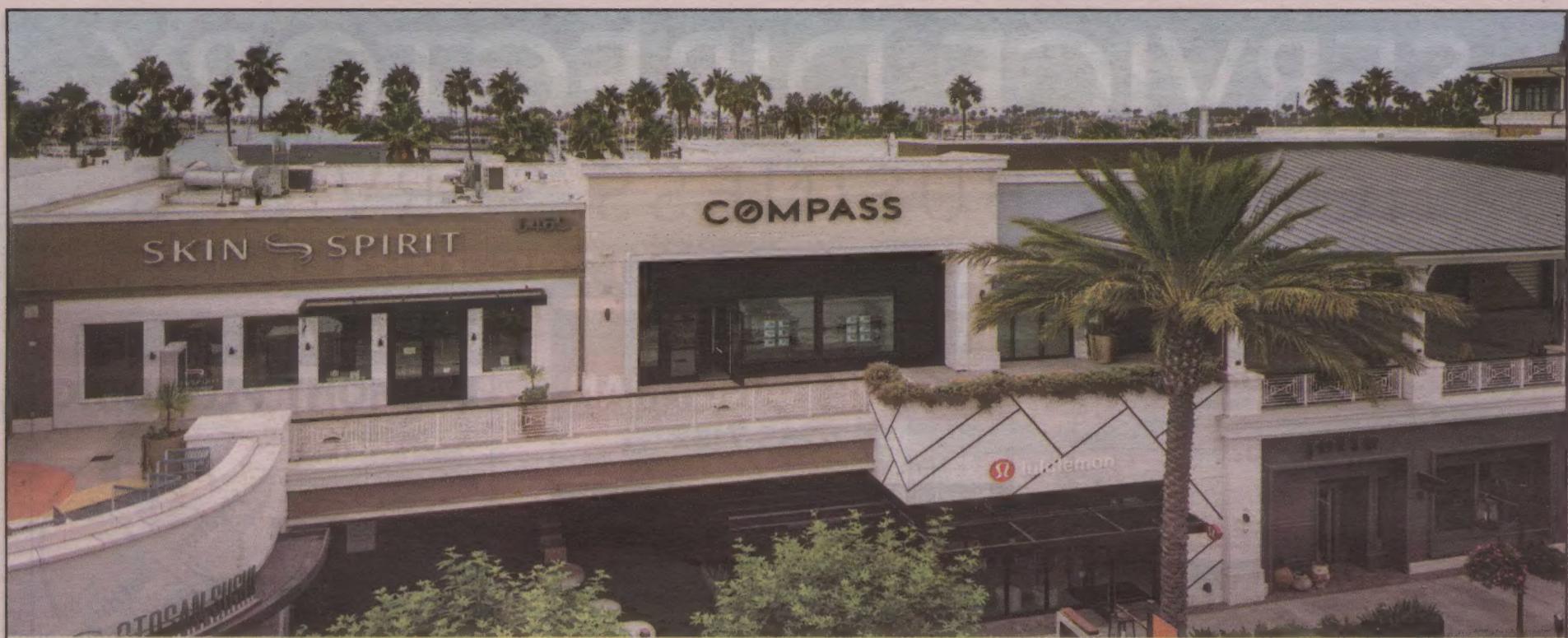
**Jovani
Ruff**

Inside

Moments of the Year: From the thrilling Millikan-Poly football game to multiple CIF-SS and state titles, these are the top 10. Page 4B



Sports awards: The Long Beach Century Club hosted its 68th annual Sports Night Banquet last week, recognizing the city's top high school athletes. Page 6B



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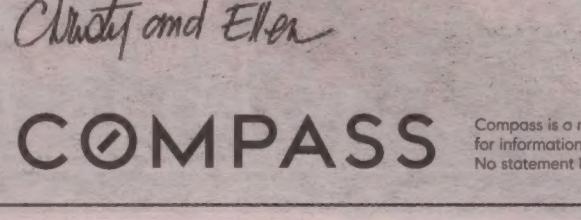
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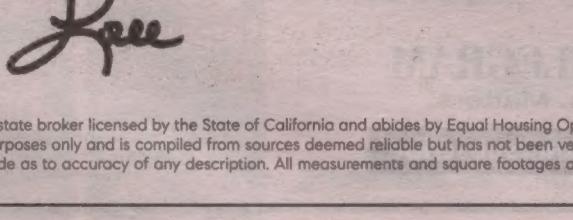
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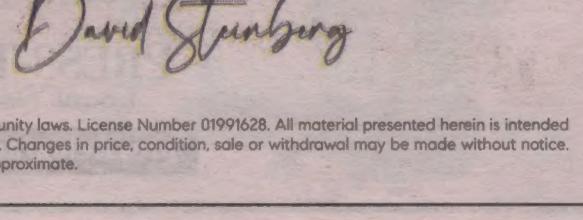
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IMMIGRATION

What can you do during an ICE raid?

Lawyers and industry groups offer hotline, tipsheets and 'know your rights' cards to help protect constitutional rights

By Pat Maio
PMAIO@SCNG.COM

Los Angeles lawyer Olu Orange launched a telephone hotline in mid-June for people looking to avoid appearing in immigration court where federal agents might detain or deport them.

Staffed by university student volunteers, the hotline has logged thousands of calls, often 10 calls a minute, from people seeking to switch their appearances from in-person to online.

Orange said he was motivated to create the lifeline after learning that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were detaining and arresting people awaiting their hearings. Social media posts, he said, are filled with such stories.

Last Monday, Orange assembled 17 volunteers with USC's Dornsife College of Letters and Arts and Sciences to answer calls and help complete and submit a "motion to change hearing format."

With 4,000 calls handled so far by volunteers speaking English, Spanish and other foreign languages, Orange said he's already helped at least 320 people obtain remote online hearings.

The hotline is one example of how people are desperate for information and tips in the face of immigration raids sweeping Southern California.

"This is where our country is right now," Orange said. "This is what people in our country need."

Orange said that he's now onboarded roughly 80 more students from USC, UCLA and UC Irvine to help take calls.

"As a Mexican American who grew up in the Latino community, this does affect me personally," said hotline volunteer Elisa Herrera, a 25-year-old from Whittier who just finished her second year of legal studies with UCI. "The anxiety that folks have has been growing, and it absolutely affects people wanting to come in and have their hearings online. At the same time, we're not going to let what's going on deter us from helping people who are going through this process set up by the government."

The service is made possible through the Agents of Change Civil Rights Advocacy Initiative, spearheaded by Orange, the program founder. It's also supported by Orange's law firm, Orange Law Office, and the National Immigration Project. Orange also runs the trial advocacy program at USC, where he teaches law classes.

The hotline can be reached at 888-462-5211.



Protestors look on as U.S. Border Patrol and Custom officers and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents stand guard at the back entrance of Edward R. Roybal Center and Federal Building in L.A. on June 11. KEITH BIRMINGHAM — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Experts are offering myriad tips to people who may be undocumented and facing deportation or questions about their immigration status in the legal system.

If federal immigration agents appear in a public setting — a Home Depot, car wash or restaurant or even the parking lot of the Los Angeles Dodgers — those detained have certain options.

- Don't say anything: "I would advise you not to talk," Orange said.
- Mark private spaces: In San Francisco, the owner of a Mexican restaurant posted an "employees only" sign, marking certain areas of the restaurant as off-limits. Since it's not a public space, his employees should be safe, the restaurant owner told CalMatters.
- Check the warrant: Agents need to show a warrant, and employees should check the name on it. They also know to try to stop the agents verbally as well as using hand gestures.

ON THE JOB SITE

If you're a general contractor, the challenges are complex.

In recent months, trade groups representing homebuilders and contractors involved in public works construction — like roads and hospitals — began giving advice to their clients on what to do if immigration agents show up at a workplace.

The Associated General Contractors of America created an online resource center to help contractors navigate ICE issues. A



A U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent looks on during a protest outside the Federal Building on June 13 in Los Angeles. WALLY SKALIJ — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

fact sheet with 25 questions and answers provides guidance on how to deal with ICE agents when they show up at the workplace:

- Unannounced ICE visits: The trade group says ICE may arrive unannounced to a workplace with a "notice of inspection" requesting an employer to produce I-9 (employment eligibility) forms within three days.
- Entering nonpublic areas: ICE must have the employer's consent or a search warrant signed by a federal judge. To arrest an employee, an ICE officer is only allowed into the public areas of the workplace, even if an administrative warrant is issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- Can ICE interview employees: Yes, ICE may try to speak with employees, but the employer can refuse to make employees available and refer ICE to legal counsel. An employer should not be an obstacle to ICE agents outside the workplace or in public areas.
- Taking records: If it is an I-9 audit, the ICE investigator cannot take the records off the property. If there is an arrest, the employer

BLACK

From Page 9

be to capture community feedback on the data results, such as what Black community members would like to see done with the data, and then finalize the report and make it publicly accessible, officials said.

The assessment will eventually be accessible through Long Beach's Racial and Health Equity Data Hub. There is currently some information for Black Health Equity at the data hub.

Resources for the community will also be available at the data hub. The Black Health Equity Collaborative is working on a community health resource map that will be on the city's webpage, and currently, there are 75 local organizations that will be certified of being resources specifically for Black residents, officials said.

"In the Health Department's collective impact bureau, our focus is on building partnerships and strategies that are grounded in community voice," said Jeremy Scruggs, Long Beach's Health Equity Officer. "We also know that the work of equity is far too big for any one department to carry alone. It takes a shared vision, effort, and deep trust."

"That's why our team has been working alongside Black community members to launch the Black Community Health

should insist on seeing the warrant and any subpoena for documents. A subpoena issued by a federal judge may allow ICE to take documents immediately.

■ ICE raid vs. I-9 audit. A raid happens when agents arrive unannounced at the employer's premises and its agents surround the premises with the possibility of aerial presence supported by a helicopter or airplane. The agents enter the business with a criminal search warrant detailing what they will search and may seize. An audit is less confrontational, with agents delivering a notice of inspection, demanding the employer produce I-9 forms.

WHO TO CALL

The California Immigrant Policy Center provides a list of "rapid response networks" throughout California that can provide help as well as "know your rights" resources if approached by ICE or Border Patrol agents.

Those resources include a know-your-rights handout in eight languages to help families prepare for a possible interaction with federal agents, as well as videos in seven languages.

The Red Card Project is another initiative helping educate people about their rights when interacting with federal immigration agents.

The wallet-sized card outlines key rights, like remaining silent, refusing a search and requesting a lawyer.

Several major school districts in Southern California have participated in the distribution of the cards to their students.

In recent months, the Los Angeles Unified School District distributed more than 300,000 Red Cards, said LAUSD spokesman Tom Cohen.

"Los Angeles Unified is compelled by legal and moral obligations to protect the legal and privacy rights of our students and employees, and to ensure all students' constitutional right to a public education," Cohen said. "We take these obligations seriously and work with our community partners to provide support and resources for our students, families, and employees."

Santa Ana Unified School District began distributing the cards to more than 35,000 students this spring, with plans to hand out more in summer programs.

"We have not had any immigration enforcement activities at any of our schools to date. However, we are working to provide resources to families and training for staff to support our families," SAUSD spokesman Fermin Leal said.

He said that his school district holds "Know Your Rights" virtual town hall meetings every two weeks with participation from immigration lawyers, representatives from the Mexican Consulate, and local elected officials, who provide information and answer questions from the district's parents.

The next meeting is today.

Strengths and Needs Assessment," he added. "This is more than just a data project. It's a process of listening, learning, and honoring the life experiences that too often go unrecognized. We reimagined the assessment as a tool for relationship building and long-term investments, not just a report."

After the data presentation, Councilmember Joni Ricks-Oddie, nonprofit leader Darick Simpson, and Black Infant Health coordinator Gwen Manning served as panelists to discuss the results of the health assessment.

The panelists discussed several questions, including how the city could address the concerns of access to affordable food and housing for Long Beach Black residents.

"We need to make sure that we're thinking about how we are developing a city in a holistic manner that serves the residents that currently live here and addresses the issues that they have," Ricks-Oddie said. "We just talked about all the data that we're collecting, please know that there are those of us in the city who pay attention to this data, who think about this data, and think about how it impacts the types of policies that we are putting forward, but...I'd love to see more Black people come out to the meetings when we're talking about these policies and ordinances."

Ricks-Oddie encouraged the community to "Talk about your experience, tell us what you think, and I will tell you, we listen."

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